

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

LORD DENMAN'S LAW OF CHURCH-RATES.

As we announced to our readers, last week, the celebrated Braintree case, which has been pending now for some years, and which has been the subject of four previous decisions in different courts of law, was virtually settled on Monday se'nnight, by the judgment of Lord Denman, in the Court of Queen's Bench. We refrained, at the time, from pronouncing upon the precise bearings of this decision, lest a hurried glance at it should have misled us. The opportunity has since been afforded us, and we have embraced it, to study the judgment with care, and our original impression has been confirmed. Whatever may be the value of his lordship's analogical reasonings, it appears to us that the points of law laid down by him are sufficiently explicit. We gather from this judicial decision the following doctrines.

First, that at a meeting of parishioners, summoned in vestry, for the purpose of laying a church-rate, any amendment involving a scriptural or moral condemnation of the compulsory system, is irrelevant. The law has sanctioned church-rates—and the propriety of that law should be discussed, not in the vestry, but before the Legislature. In the former place, it is taken for granted as proved, that the principle is a sound one—and, proceeding on this assumption, the parishioners are bound to confine their deliberations to the necessity of the rate proposed, to the amount required, and to the mode in which it shall be raised. Opposition, which does not aim at one or other of these points, deprives those who take part in it of all right to be heard.

Secondly, a *monition* from the proper ecclesiastical authority, is to be assumed as establishing the necessity of a church-rate. A vestry called together in virtue of such a mandate, no matter by what agency procured, has only to consult how it may best obey—and the proportion of the parishioners who aim at giving effect to this authority, even were they limited to the two churchwardens, are, in the eye of law, the only persons competent to record a legal decision.

Much has been said of the unconstitutional nature of the doctrine here laid down. Englishmen, it has been affirmed, can only be taxed with their own consent, expressed through their representatives. This is true, by a fiction, at least, as to the instrumentality to be employed, in determining the amount and mode of taxation; but it has never, to our knowledge, been established as true, in reference to the decision whether any taxation in support of Government is justifiable or proper. A majority of a House of Commons who should declare, if such a thing can be conceived, that governments are unnecessary, a violation of divine rule and of human reason, and who, on such grounds, should stop the supplies, would occupy, so far as the spirit of the constitution is concerned, a precisely analogous position with a vestry refusing church-rates on religious or moral grounds. The very existence of an established church involves the right to levy contributions upon all for its maintenance and extension—just as the existence of Government implies the necessity of taxation for its support—and so long as we allow of a State-church, so long, it appears to us, we are precluded from discussing its authority to levy imposts upon us. We can only get rid of the objectionable principle, by getting rid of the institution which embodies it. Disguise it we may, by throwing the maintenance of religious edifices and worship upon the better management of that portion of the national resources which goes under the name of Church Property—but the principle remains unaltered, save in its outward modification, and no ingenuity can reconcile a church as by law established, and a church without the power of compulsory support. We need not say,

therefore, that we look upon Lord Denman's law as good.

And now let us look, for a moment, at the practical bearing of this decision. Easter is just at hand—and, in every populous town, freed for years past from the yoke of church-rates—Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, Sheffield, Nottingham, Rochdale, and the like—churchwardens, armed beforehand with a monition, will impose the odious tax upon their fellow-parishioners. Slumbering Nonconformists will be simultaneously stung into wakefulness—and the visions of peace which enchanted dreaming theorists will be dispelled by rough contact with the almost forgotten rate-collector. The issue cannot be otherwise than beneficial. For some time past, the Establishment has only been seen from afar by Dissenters in our largest and most important towns; and distance has, to their view, wonderfully mellowed down its evils. It will now come home again to their own doors—rudely, noisily, imperatively—come, in fact, in its own appropriate guise, as one having both power and will to trample upon the rights of conscience. And what will be the inevitable consequence? Why, that the places which have hitherto been most opposed to any agitation of the State-church question, will be foremost in urging it forward—and that where numbness has been most prevalent and complete, the returning sensation of life will be most tingling. Who can regret that the outward form of the Establishment principle should be made to correspond exactly with its vital essence? The compulsion which forces us to see things as they are is a salutary one. Religious freedom will one day have to thank Lord Denman for dispelling a pernicious popular delusion—that a State-church and freedom of conscience are, under any circumstances, compatible.

To the opponents of church-rates on principle, this judgment reads an important lesson. Henceforth, at all events, their sphere of action cannot be the vestry. Why should they be present there? To what truth can they give their testimony? They are by law precluded from making their appeal to the Scriptures, as expressing the mind of their Master. Does it, can it become them as conscientious Nonconformists, to recognize, by taking part in the discussion, the right of the civil power to compel maintenance for the Church? Is it for them to higgler over details? to pronounce whether or not a rate is necessary? to determine its amount? to enforce this or the other mode of raising it? Clearly, not! They are fenced off most effectually from this arena. He who stoops to dispute details, tacitly consents to the principle they embody. What course, then, is open to them? One, and one only. They must "take the spoiling of their goods." They must offer passive submission. The law says, "Must"—conscience must respond, "Even so; then, do your worst. I yield—but I do not consent." This is our sole remedy—self-sacrifice.

We forget. There is another. The blows we have hitherto aimed at a branch must fall upon the root. We may protest against a state-church as such. We may expose its antichristian character—its persecuting spirit—its hostility to civil freedom—its violation of all, even the most sacred, individual rights. To this point we must come. Every week enforces upon us this admonition. Neutrality as to this question is fast becoming impossible—impossible, we mean, to the honest—on either side. We anticipate, therefore, a large accession to the ranks of active anti-state-churchism. The Conference, the holding of which is notified this day in our column of advertisements, will, we doubt not, be all the more numerously attended in consequence of this decision. The importance of organized effort can now be scarcely questioned. Lord Denman's judgment and the Ministerial plan of education will open the eyes of myriads to the necessity of quitting, once for all, the ground of inaction and silence. They will see that it exposes them to perpetual encroachments and loss—exposes truth to severe and increasing perils—and, reluctant as they may be to rush into the fray, they will feel compelled to step forward to the rescue of mangled and bleeding Christianity.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

LECTURES IN WALES.

During the last fortnight, Mr. Kingsley has been engaged in visiting several of the towns in the counties of Monmouth and Glamorgan. The first meeting was held at Newport, on the 2nd inst., and the following report is extracted from the *Monmouthshire Merlin*:—"On Tuesday evening last, a public meeting was held

at the Town Hall, Newport, to hear an address from J. Kingsley, Esq., B.A., of Trinity College, Dublin, explanatory of the objects and principles of the above-named association. The chair was taken soon after half-past seven, by the Rev. Thomas Gillman, of the Tabernacle Chapel, who, in suitable observations, opened the business of the meeting, and introduced the lecturer. Mr. Kingsley, in a spirited and argumentative address, of upwards of two hours' duration, deeply interested the very large and respectable audience assembled—dwelling, with peculiar force, upon the origin of church property, and arguing, that the mode in which a great portion of that property was acquired, furnished no legitimate and exclusive claim to such property on the part of those by whom it is now held. The lecturer also made some interesting observations, towards the conclusion of his address, on the past and present state of the Irish Episcopal Church, with a view to show that that establishment is not adapted to the wishes and wants of the Irish people. Mr. Kingsley was frequently and enthusiastically applauded throughout his address."

On the following evening a meeting was held in one of the largest chapels in Pontypool, when the chair was taken by Mr. Thomas Thomas, President of the Baptist College, and a very numerous and respectable auditory listened for upwards of two hours to Mr. Kingsley's able exposure of the evils resulting from the connexion between Church and State.

The meeting at Cardiff, on Thursday, was held in the British school-room, and was presided over by Mr. T. G. Carver, Independent minister. Although local circumstances rendered the evening selected a very unfavourable one, the attendance and the interest excited were in every way satisfactory. One large and influential congregation being prevented, by meetings of their own, from taking part on the 4th, it was thought advisable to hold a second meeting on the following Monday, when, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the ground being thickly covered with snow, and the fall still continuing, great numbers assembled and greeted the lecturer with enthusiasm. Additional interest was felt from the late severe Church-rate struggle.

On Friday Mr. Kingsley proceeded to Tredegar, and addressed a large congregation, his statements being translated into Welsh by a neighbouring minister, for the benefit of such as did not understand English.

Arrangements had been made for a public meeting in Castle-street Chapel, Swansea, on Tuesday the 9th, and at the appointed time between eight and nine hundred persons had assembled. The excitement is described as immense; but the condition of the roads rendered it impossible for Mr. Kingsley to reach the town in time. The mail which should have arrived in the morning was detained until after ten o'clock at night, so that a disappointment was inevitable. The cause was, however, sufficiently manifest, and the meeting dispersed upon the promise that the gratification they had anticipated should be afforded them at another and not distant period. On Wednesday, Feb. 10th, a meeting was held in the Baptist Chapel, Pontrhydryn (near Newport), presided over by C. Conway, Esq., proprietor of the large tin-works in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Kingsley's tour was finished on Friday evening last, when he addressed the teachers and young persons of the various congregations in Newport, at the Hope Independent Chapel (Mr. T. L. Bright's).

Resolutions were passed at the various meetings approving of the principles and proceedings of the Association, and appointing local committees to assist in the promotion of its objects. The greatest satisfaction has been felt at the visit of the talented lecturer, and his friends in Monmouth and Glamorgan have parted from him in the hope that the arrangements of the Committee will allow him to repeat it at an early period. It should be mentioned, that during his stay in Pontypool he spent an afternoon with the students of the Baptist College, and addressed them at considerable length on the principal features of the controversy. It was a most interesting meeting, and all parties were highly pleased with the interview.—*From a Correspondent.*

NORFOLK AND NORWICH RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SOCIETY.

(Abridged from the *Norfolk News*.)

The first of a series of lectures on this subject was delivered on Tuesday last, at the Assembly-rooms. There was a very numerous and respectable attendance.

Mr. JAMES COLMAN was called to the chair, and, in the course of his remarks, said that he rejoiced that this movement had commenced, and that the public mind was now about to be enlightened on the great question of the connexion between the Church and State.

Mr. J. TILLET briefly explained the object of the society, and the means it was about to adopt to promulgate its opinions. They were about to bring their principles in the clearest possible way before the public mind, so that no man who desired information on the subject should be without the means of instruction [hear]. The lectures which had been advertised, and

the first of which was about to be delivered, were the principal means they intended to adopt to secure this end. At their conclusion, a *soirée* would be held in St. Andrew's-hall, at which some of the leading and most eloquent advocates of the cause of religious liberty would be requested to attend [applause].

The Rev. W. Brock then delivered the introductory address, throughout which he was repeatedly and loudly applauded. The lecture occupied nearly two columns of the *Norfolk News*, but the demands on our space prevent us extracting from it. At the conclusion of Mr. Brock's address, Mr. Dowson delivered the second lecture of the series—"The compulsory maintenance of religion is inconsistent with the spirit of Christianity." At the close of Mr. Dowson's lecture,

Mr. WHEELER, minister, moved a vote of thanks to the two lecturers for their instructive addresses; and, in closing, alluded to the judgment recently given by Lord Denman, on the question of church-rates, which was to the effect, that if a rate was carried by a minority at a vestry meeting, it was valid, seeing that any proposal to avoid the rate was irrelevant.

Mr. J. FLETCHER seconded the proposal. The question of religious liberty always seemed to him to be one which required more than usual that a spirit of love should be infused into everything they said, in order that they might not be mistaken for merely political agitators, but that it might be seen, that they were pursuing, in the spirit of the gospel, an object which they felt to be connected with the vital interests of the gospel of Jesus Christ [hear, hear].

The Rev. W. Brock returned thanks. In reference to Lord Denman's judgment he said, that never to the day of his death would he pay a rate which should be enforced on him by a minority of his fellow-citizens [loud applause]. Of this he was satisfied, that they were now nearer, than they were before that judgment of Lord Denman's, to the entire abolition of church-rates [applause]. Thanks having been voted to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

"If we required," says the *News*, "any proof that the English people are quite ready to entertain the Anti-state-church question, we should find it in the cordial reception given by a large and intelligent assembly of our fellow-citizens, to the lectures of the Rev. W. Brock and Mr. J. W. Dowson, on Tuesday night. Of the ability, candour, sound reasoning, and calm moderation, which the lecturers exhibited, we need say nothing, because we have enabled our readers, by a full report, to judge for themselves. But to the close attention and warm responses of a crowded meeting, which represented very fairly the intelligence and respectability of Norwich, we may refer, in order to refute the charge, puerile if true, and as untrue as puerile, that the advocates of separation vent nothing but extreme opinions, the offspring of sectarian bigotry. The gentlemen thus maligned, have met the accusation against them in the best way, indeed, in the only way congenial to their object and their temper,—a public exposition of their views."

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND ECCLESIASTICAL ENDOWMENTS.

We have received a copy of a correspondence which has lately taken place between the Dissenting ministers of Frome and Major Boyle, who is a candidate for the representation of that borough at the next election. It would be well if timely measures were taken in every case to secure a right understanding between candidates and electors. The explicit avowal of principles is the best security for united and successful action.

The first letter, which is dated "Frome, Jan. 20th, 1847," is signed by Messrs. C. J. Middleditch, Baptist minister; William Jones, Baptist minister; Levi Waterhouse, Wesleyan minister; John Brandreth, Wesleyan minister; John Jones, Independent minister; and William Fernie, Independent minister; and is addressed to Major Boyle. The substance of it is as follows:—

The manner in which the various bodies of Dissenters have hitherto been allied with the Whig party in this country would lead you to expect support from them in the event of a contest. There are, however, we apprehend, certain reasons which will prevent our cordial support of your claims, and which, therefore, compel us to address you thus, that you may not be disappointed by the withholding of votes in the case of those of us who are electors in this borough, or of any measure of influence that, as ministers, we may have with other persons.

You are well aware that the present First Lord of the Treasury has stated that he should be glad to endow, by an act of the Legislature, the Roman Catholic priesthood of Ireland, if the state of public feeling would allow him. Rumours are also abroad, not altogether devoid of claims to belief, that some augmentation of the English Episcopal hierarchy is contemplated. It is evident that there is a disposition among our statesmen to consolidate the power of the Government by an enlargement of their ecclesiastical patronage.

In the opinion of some whose names are subscribed, such patronage of religion, whether true or false, is directly opposed to the will of God; they would, therefore, base their opposition to any such ecclesiastical endowment on the same ground, whether in the case of the Protestant or of the Catholic, and affirm that the very principle of a State endowment is wrong. Some, whose names are attached to this document, would not be prepared to adopt this broad principle; but they feel equally repugnant to the endowment of the Roman Catholic priesthood, and must protest against any enlargement of the resources of the Church of England, which, in our opinion, instead of being the bulwark of Protestantism, has of late years proved itself to be the handmaid of Popery.

We do not ask you, Sir, to act in opposition to your own convictions of duty. If it be your belief that earthly governments ought to take all forms of religion into their pay, avow the belief, and we will respect your candour, though we should dissent from your opinion. But having reason to believe that you have said before a considerable body of the electors, that you will vote for the abolition of church-rates, because every form of religion ought to support itself; and that you would vote first for the appropriation clause, as it is commonly called; and that, if defeated in this, you would not pledge yourself not to vote for a State grant in behalf of Popery; we conclude, that you do not regard the measure as a matter of duty, but as an act of State policy. If once affirmed by you to be a matter of conscientious obligation, our hope of argument with you would be at an end; and it

would only remain for us to support a candidate who entertained sentiments more in accordance with our own. But as you have not, to our knowledge, ever placed the matter on this ground, we feel assured you will not deem this communication uncalled for, or disrespectful.

To this Major Boyle replies, in a letter dated Jan. 27, after a caveat against pledging members of Parliament—

I am, upon principle, opposed to any fresh endowment, from the public funds, of any Church. I do not except the Church of England, to which I belong. I cannot, therefore, be more favourable to the Church of Rome, from whose doctrines I dissent. I do not believe that the present Government have any intention to propose the payment, by the State, of the Roman Catholic clergy. I have certainly never heard any plan proposed, with this object, to which I could agree. It is scarcely necessary for me, a conscientious member of the Church of England, to avow that I do not go the full length of wishing for the separation of Church and State, or that I consider the bishops an integral and necessary portion of that Church.

With this conviction, it appears to me, that their number and location must depend upon the wants of the Church of which they are the heads; but I consider it right that the expense of any such requirements of the Church should be paid out of its own ample funds, and form no excuse for the imposition of fresh burdens upon the people.

He then goes on to deprecate any division in the Liberal camp, and asks if it is not "more politic to dwell more upon the great principles in which we are agreed, than to seek for diverging points of opinion."

In a rejoinder, dated Feb. 2, the above-mentioned ministers express satisfaction at the above sentiments, and continue:—

We rely on your steadfast adherence to the sentiments thus expressed; and believe, that being opposed on principle to any fresh endowment of any Church, you will strenuously resist all attempts which may be made for such an object.

With respect to your remarks on the importance of "dwelling more on great principles" rather than "to seek for diverging points of opinion," we beg to remind you that we regard this question as involving principles superior to any others which are likely to be agitated in the forthcoming election; and that it was not sought for by us, but was forced upon us by the evident disposition of leading statesmen, both Conservative and Liberals; and had your present statement been given earlier, no cause would have existed for apprehending a division on this matter in the Liberal camp at Frome.

CHURCH-RATES IN ANGLESEA.

On the 1st instant, a church-rate case was decided at the Panton Arms, in the Island of Anglesea, before Sir R. W. Bulkeley, Bart., M.P., Hugh Beaver, Esq., and Rev. O. G. Williams. The defendant, Mr. Griffith Roberts, of Cefndu, in the parish of Llanfihangel-Ysgeifiog, was summoned at the complaint of Hugh Griffith and Rowland Owen, who presumed themselves to be the churchwardens of the aforesaid parish. He was prosecuted by Mr. Lewis, curate of the Dean of Bangor, who is the rector of the parish. Mr. G. Roberts was defended by W. Lloyd Roberts, Esq., Carnarvon. The service of notice was admitted, and the rate-book was produced, which showed the total amount of the rate to be £73. Mr. Roberts's quota was £6 3s. 0d.

Mr. Lloyd Roberts challenged the prosecutor and wardens to prove the validity of the rate, upon which the clerical magistrate stated that its validity could not be questioned in that court but in an ecclesiastical court, but his dictum was not obeyed.

Upon being sworn, Hugh Griffith stated that he was churchwarden for the year, but did not know the day on which the vestry for making the rate was held. Rowland Owen as well, declared himself warden for the year. Hugh Owen was appointed to the office six years ago, and fixed on witness to help him. They had remained in office ever since without any fresh appointment. The rate was granted in January 1846. He had no copy of the notice of the vestry. There was no vestry to appoint churchwardens neither in 1845 nor 1846. Hugh Owen had been appointed to the office by Mr. Poole, the then curate of the parish. He did not know that Hugh Williams and Pierce Williams were appointed churchwardens in 1845.

Mr. L. Roberts put in a paper to show that the last-mentioned individuals were appointed to the office in 1845, but it did not appear that any parties had made the necessary declaration. Mr. Roberts then pointed out that the office of churchwardens was an annual appointment, and that consequently the complainants had no right whatever to make a church-rate. Sir R. Bulkeley stated, and Mr. Beaver concurred with him, that the whole proceedings were most irregular. The appointment of churchwardens had not been annual, and no legal proof had been given that the vestry duly made the rate. The clerical magistrate still thought that the only place to question the validity of the rate was the ecclesiastical court. The clerical prosecutor, Mr. Lewis, believed that he had read somewhere in "Burn's Justice," he did not recollect the page, "that if no fresh appointments were made, the churchwardens of the previous year were to remain in office."

Mr. Lloyd Roberts replied; the case was then dismissed, but the magistrates refused to grant the defendant his costs.

The church service in this parish was attended on the 24th of January by eighteen adults, including the parson and clerk, and by thirteen children belonging to the National-school. The service of the Dissenting chapels, two in number, on the same Sabbath, was attended as follows:—Morning, Sabbath-school, 432; afternoon service, 495; evening service, 645. The population of the parish in 1841 was only 947. This is a very edifying comment on the attempt to enforce the aforesaid church-rate.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION. — Our readers are referred to an advertisement in this day's paper, announcing that the First Triennial Conference is fixed for Tuesday, May 4, and following days, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. This arrangement, we understand, is required by the provisions of the constitution of the Society, and is devised in order that once in three years it may be reconsidered, modified, or recon-

structed, as the parties then assembled shall deem right. We understand that it is intended to lay before the Conference a history of the working of the Society since its commencement, and papers are in preparation bearing on the difficulties with which it has had to contend, and comprehending the menacing aspect which ecclesiastical affairs in this country are now presenting.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION. — Our advertising columns announce, that the second of the winter course of lectures is to be delivered by Dr. Cox, of Hackney, at Tottenham-court-road Chapel, on Thursday the 25th inst. The subject is, "The Antagonism of State Churches to Scriptural Christianity."

THE BRAINTREE CHURCH-RATE CASE.—Speaking of Lord Denman's judgment in the Court of Queen's Bench, the *Morning Chronicle* says:—"We hardly remember a decision more repugnant to the palpable merits of the case; and we learn, without surprise, that the general feeling of the legal profession respecting it completely bears out the censures which it irresistibly provokes from unprofessional common sense. To those who would fain number themselves among the friends and admirers of Lord Denman, it must be deeply mortifying to be informed, that the preposterous judgment which it was his ill-fortune to deliver on the occasion alluded to, was the result of a protracted deliberative delay." The specific ground upon which our contemporary deems the judgment so extraordinary a sample of judicial logic, is the fact, that after the amendment, which his lordship says was not an amendment, had been carried, there was no vote. *The rate was not put from the chair.* There was nothing to show that the minority who opposed the amendment approved of the rate. There was simply a sort of understanding that a majority of the minority were in favour of it. The vote which the churchwarden omitted to ask for was taken for granted, and the levy of the money was commenced accordingly. And yet Lord Denman pronounces this a perfectly good and legal rate!

SINGULAR ILLUSTRATION OF THE SYSTEM OF CHURCH PATRONAGE.—The following facts have come to our knowledge, under such circumstances as warrant us in laying them before the public. A certificated lunatic has lately been inducted into a living in the diocese of Exeter. At the time that he was presented to the benefice, he was so decidedly insane, that a keeper was in constant attendance upon him. When he ascended the desk "to read himself in," he was unable to complete the task, which he finished in the afternoon;—thus, we believe, entitling himself to possession of the living. Before his induction, two physicians had jointly certified that he was *non compos mentis*. We believe he is not an Evangelical man, and, therefore, the Bishop of Exeter would probably leave him in undisturbed enjoyment of his preferment. We shall take care, however, that the case meets the eyes of those who represent "the Head of the Church" in Parliament, and in the administration of Church patronage; and they will probably institute an inquiry. On referring to the *Clerical Guide*, we find that the living is in the gift of the Lord Chancellor. The presentation was made about a year ago, and the reverend lunatic read himself in about three weeks since,—*Patriot*.

ORPHAN WORKING-SCHOOL.—FANCY SALE AND BAZAAR AT HAVERSTOCK-HILL.—On Wednesday evening, at the school in the City-road, a meeting was held of the ladies who have kindly interested themselves in favour of this important scheme, to confer together on the subject generally. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, and the lateness of the hour (half-past five o'clock), upwards of sixty ladies attended; and, as none were invited but those on the list as a General Committee for London and its suburbs, the meeting was of the highest respectability. There were also present, Dr. Jenkyn, who presided; Messrs. Owen and Tyler, and many gentlemen of the committees of the charity. The Girls' school-room was tastefully arranged for the occasion, additional gas-lights suspended, and everything proved that the Committee were desirous that nothing should be wanting to add to the comfort of their fair guests. Tea was provided, and handed round to the company. The Secretary read letters from ladies in various parts of the kingdom, proving that a deep interest was felt in the success of the undertaking. It was also stated, that the ladies have themselves, or by their friends, already contributed about £150 in money towards the bazaar, and that the most active canvass was going on. Short speeches were made by Mr. W. Owen, Mr. W. Tyler, and the Chairman, appropriate to the occasion; and a series of "Hints to Ladies" were read, approved, and will be printed for their use. It appears, the bazaar will be opened to the public on the 8th of May, and continued on the tenth and two following days. A volume was announced as about to be published at the opening of the bazaar, on "Orphanage," papers for which have been contributed, among others, by Drs. Wardlaw, Harris, Leifchild, Cox, and Archer; by Messrs. Noel, Christmas, Bunting, Barnett, Jackson; by Horace Smith, Esq., and James Montgomery, Esq.; also by Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. S. C. Hall, Miss Toulmin, Miss Strickland, Miss E. Cook, and others; and it was requested that the ladies would interest themselves to obtain subscribers for the work, which it is intended shall be sold to them for 6s. per copy. It will be beautifully got up, and with illustrations by first-rate artists, who have volunteered their gratuitous services for its adornment. During the evening the children were introduced to the company, the girls first, who afterwards sang "Tis the voice of the sluggard," &c.; after displaying the work they had prepared for the bazaar, they retired, when the boys appeared with a variety of ingenious toys they had prepared for the sale. As it was the anniversary of the marriage of Her Majesty—the Patroness of the Bazaar—they were called upon to sing the "National Anthem," which they did with great credit. The whole proceedings went off well, and terminated about half-past eight o'clock.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

THE TEN HOURS FACTORY BILL.

At the early sitting of the Commons, on Wednesday, Mr. FIELDEN moved the second reading of the Factories Bill, without any observation.

There was a pause, it being expected that some member of the Government would rise; but all remaining seated.

Mr. HUME stood up, and made a long speech against the bill, as opposed to the principles of political economy. After having acted for three hundred years on the principle of protection, the House had found it work so ill that it had set about the task of mending the system, which this bill would tend to renew. It would interfere with the application of the capital that employs the immense mass of labour in factories; injuring the community by the loss of production, and the working classes by the diminution of employment; diminishing trade by raising the prices of articles which depend for exportation on their cheapness, and crippling the means of this country to endure its burdens. He cautioned the House to beware how it sanctioned rash experiments of this kind, especially when Ireland is suffering from want of employment; and he called upon Ministers, particularly the Vice-President of the Board of Trade, to prevent such injurious interference with commerce. He moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

Sir GEORGE GREY apologized for the absence of Lord John Russell, on the plea of indispensable business; but he would be there as soon as possible. After what had passed at the close of last session, the House would not expect that the members of the Government could take a united course on the subject. There were, Sir George said, no new arguments to consider. The only new point for consideration was the present feeling of the public mind. He had once hoped that the object would be attained by a mutual arrangement between the employers and the employed, but he had been disappointed. He would be no party to the delusion that a reduction of the hours of labour would not affect the rate of wages; but it is just one of those cases in which advantages are to be gained by individuals from breaking voluntary engagements; such voluntary engagements are thus frustrated,—as in the case of Sunday trading, and the early closing of shops. Reviewing the chief arguments against the measure, he found that they all resolved into mere predictions of the loss and ruin and misery which would follow its adoption. Various laws, however, going upon the same principle as this bill, and restricting the labour of children, had been passed and had been in operation without any of the deplorable results which had been predicted. Parliament has legislated with advantage for the class called "children" in the Factory Acts. The Inspectors report that the condition of children is greatly improved, and that the character of their education is rapidly advancing. He thought that the Legislature had failed to secure proportionate advantage for the class called "young persons;" and he could not satisfy himself but what the predictions of injury and the calculations of loss in the present case, as in the previous cases, had been very much exaggerated. With respect to women also, he thought that their total removal from home, except in the hours of sleep, was very injurious. He differed from Mr. Fielden as to the causes of the mortality to which he had alluded in factory towns; and Sir George quoted further extracts from the report of the Registrar-General to show that the mortality belongs rather to the incidents of all large towns than to the peculiar kind of employment in factories. He recurred to Lord John Russell's declaration at the end of last session, in reply to Mr. Thomas Duncombe, that he should be prepared to support an eleven hours' bill; and also that the measure, involving no new principle, but only a matter of detail, should be an open question in the Cabinet. In those views Sir George Grey concurred. He should vote for the second reading of the bill, and for the clause which restricted the hours of labour to eleven instead of twelve; but should oppose that clause which went further to restrict the hours at the end of the year to ten.

The debate was continued with a tolerably even alternation of speakers for and against the measure, but without a variety of argument corresponding with the number of speeches. Mr. BANKES replied to Sir George Grey, and was followed at stated intervals by Lord JOHN MANNERS, the Marquis of GRANBY, Mr. PHILIP HOWARD, and Mr. MUNTZ. The principal of these speeches was delivered by

Lord JOHN MANNERS, who contended that the present time would be very suitable for the change, inasmuch as the mills are already working short time on account of depression in trade; and, were the bill passed, it would prevent that wild and injurious reaction which has hitherto attended the recurrence of prosperity in manufacturing districts; a reaction which has already commenced, without apparent cause or reasons, as he learned from the monthly circular of Messrs. Ferguson and Taylor. In reply to Sir George Grey's remarks about the mortality, Lord John read a long extract of a letter from Mr. Fletcher, the well-known surgeon of Bury, stating the results of careful examinations which he and a friend had made into the registrations in various towns. Mr. Fletcher gave specimens of the results at which he arrived in detail. The following passages show the gross results:—

In calculating the average age at death in the better and worse conditioned localities, I carefully distinguished the factory operatives from the other working classes. The result proved the average age attained by the factory workers and their infants to be somewhat less than one-half that of the other operatives in the same districts. . . . An explanation of this remarkable result appeared in the fact that, of every 100 deaths, a fraction over 61 are infants under the age of two years, while of the other operative classes, in the same locality, the deaths under two years, are a fraction less than 33 in 100. I give below the average age at death, and the deaths under two years, of factory and other operatives, in three districts, which, differing materially in their sanitary condition, and containing a large proportion of factory people, afford a fair comparison.

Lord John wound up his speech with a declaration that

the people would continue their endeavours for short time, "animated by the gratifying conviction that the Tory gentlemen of England had maintained their just and their historical position, fighting the fight of the poor against the rich."

Sir CHARLES WOOD, replying to that announcement, declared, on the contrary, that he and the other opponents of the bill were the true friends of the people. It is to be observed that this is a bill limiting the labour of adults to ten hours a day; and there was one argument which he had never seen fairly met:—

If you diminish the hours of labour you increase the cost of production. If you reduce the time of labour in the production of articles of manufacture, the amount of fixed capital employed in the factory must be increased; and either the cost of the article must be augmented, or the additional expense must fall either on the profits of the manufacturer or on the wages of the labourer, or it must be divided between them. I have never heard this argument met: and, if it be so, and if foreign competition presses us, as the noble lord says it does, and the price of the article is increased, our trade will be driven from foreign markets. This, therefore, is a most important point.

Sir Charles's own conviction was that the working men, if they chose, could shorten the hours of labour; but that they would not do so freely, because they did not choose to incur the corresponding reduction of wages. He stated the results of actual experience on this point, in the town which he represents—Halifax; where he had used endeavours to procure a fair trial of the plan. Some of the mill-owners announced that they would work short time unless their people themselves desired to work long time; and Sir Charles Wood stated the results, specifying the separate mills and the number of workmen who acceded to one course or the other. The general result was, that the vast majority declared for the long hours and undiminished wages; and that, even those who were at first for reduced hours, in most instances desired to return to the old plan.

Similar views were supported by Mr. MARK PHILIPS, Dr. BOWRING, and Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Bright had been alluded to in a very pointed manner, and he spoke with great zeal against restrictions on labour under the name of "protection." His experience had taught him that the working classes were uniformly delighted to work additional time for additional wages; and that they would not have acceded to the present proposition if they had not been misled into the belief that the hours of labour might be reduced without a corresponding reduction in wages. Mr. Bright sharply rebuked Ministers for their vacillation: he was astonished and confounded at their conduct. If they thought the principle of so important a measure just, the Premier should have taken it up manfully, and have staked the existence of the Cabinet upon it.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL briefly replied to this attack. He could not conceive that any principle was at issue. The Legislature had already established the principle of interference; the fact being so, the only question now was one of degree; and in that view he thought that the present duration of labour for "young persons" too much for their bodily health, for their mental and moral cultivation. He was not to be deterred from that opinion by the threat of foreign competition, and by the renewal of predictions made on previous occasions, and falsified as often as they were made.

At six o'clock in the evening the debate was adjourned, and the House rose.

RAILWAY LEGISLATION.

On Thursday, Mr. STRUTT introduced a bill to regulate the proceedings of the new Railway Commission. By the bill of last session, the powers of the old railway department of the Board of Trade were transferred to the new Commission, and the present measure of detail was then promised. Mr. Strutt explained it; describing the course of a railway bill under the administration of the Commissioners—

His plan involved a bill and alterations of the standing orders of the two Houses of Parliament: the bill would regulate the functions of the Commissioners; each House would adopt corresponding regulations of its own action by alterations of the standing orders.

The first proceeding with a projected railway is to make a survey of the ground over which the railway is to pass. The law requires the promoters to prepare plans and lodge them officially, but gives no powers to make the surveys; which have actually been resisted in some cases. The Commissioners will issue warrants for the survey of any line. The promoters of the railway will previously deposit a sum of money with the Commissioners: if any damage be committed in the survey, the promoters will be expected to pay it; or in default, the Commissioners will pay it out of the money lodged with them.

Owners and occupiers of land, especially farmers and people of a similar class, have felt difficulty in understanding the technical plans of surveyors, so as to know how the property traversed will be affected: promoters of a railway will be required to mark out the line distinctly throughout, so that proprietors and occupants will see the ground needed for the line.

A surveyor will be sent down by the Commissioners to make a local survey, and to receive suggestions from landowners as to the effect of the line on private interests, and as to modifications of it. If the proposed changes are of a kind that the promoters can at once adopt, the Commissioners will empower them to do so; if not, plans and statements on both sides will be laid before the Commissioners, who will decide.

The railway bill being brought in, it is now referred to "Examiners," to see that the Standing Orders have been observed. The only effectual test is supplied in the objections made by opponents of the bill; if there is no opposition, there is no certainty of due compliance. Henceforward, the examination will be made by the Commissioners or their officers, who will have fuller information.

Then come the merits of the bill. In reference to these, the Commissioners will examine the site, plans, surveyors, engineers, &c.; being endowed with full powers to obtain information, and full discretion as to the mode of pursuing the inquiry. Counsel will not be heard, as that would occasion delay and expense; but there will be no private hearings *ex parte*.

The Commissioners will report to Parliament; the report to be received *prima facie* as conclusive on all matters of engineering. The Committee on the bill, however, will have power, for its own satisfaction, to call on the Board for fuller information, and the parties interested may adduce counter-statements and evidence as to matters of fact; with the liability, however, of paying for the expense of the further

examination thus occasioned, if the charge of error be not substantiated.

The Board will annually make comprehensive and (as we understand it) separate reports on the subject of fares and tolls, which are to be revised every ten years; on the borrowing of money, amalgamation, and charges for services on account of the Post-office.

Fares are not to be altered without notice to the public and to the Commissioners, stating reasons for the alteration.

To promote punctuality, tables are to be kept on every railway, showing the hours of despatch and arrival, to be exhibited at the stations to challenge public contradiction, and then to be forwarded to the commissioners.

Cheap trains are to go at a regulated speed—not rapidly, with long stoppages.

A light to be kept in every carriage at night.

A statement of the number admissible in each carriage to be conspicuously placed outside the carriage.

Time of running trains on lines which join, but belong to separate companies, to be regulated so as to suit public convenience, and prevent perverse refusals to co-operate under feelings of jealousy.

Magistrates to be empowered to compel the appointment of policemen on any railway in sufficient numbers by the proprietary.

Several questions were put and suggestions made. In reply, Mr. STRUTT stated that the new plan would not take effect on the bills of this session, as the commission is not sufficiently organized, and the bills are too far advanced. But in answer to Mr. Ellice, Sir CHARLES WOOD undertook that the commission should be empowered to make a report on the financial bearings of the several schemes, which Mr. Ellice estimates, in the aggregate, to involve capital to the amount of £40,000,000.

Mr. Strutt's motion was agreed to. Subsequently the bill was brought in and read a first time.

LAW OF LANDLORD AND TENANT IN IRELAND.

Mr. SHARMAN CRAWFORD, on Thursday, moved the following resolution:—

That it appears to this House, from the reports of various committees and commissions, that the system generally adopted in times past in the letting and management of landed property in Ireland, has been one of the main causes of the present distressed state of that country, and the disordered state of its social relations; and that no measures can be effectual in producing a demand for labour, or improving the condition of the people, which shall not include such an amendment of the laws of landlord and tenant as shall give to the improving tenant in occupation a sufficient permanency of tenure, or else establish the tenant's right to claim by lawful compensation for all benefits created by the expenditure of his labour and capital on the premises in his occupation.

He attributed most of the present sufferings of Ireland to the misconduct of landlords, and the relation subsisting generally between them and their tenants. Much blame was very properly attached by some to the middle men, but as the system of middlemen was introduced by the Irish proprietors of a former day, the present landlords, though not the authors of it, must be content to take the consequences of it. He then briefly exposed the evils arising from the subdivision of land, which so largely obtained in Ireland, and the practice of conacre which so extensively prevailed. Whilst Ireland was starving, the anomaly was presented to the world of its being an exporting country, and the export of provisions from it could only be arrested by affording employment to the people, and securing them a due remuneration for their labour. The result of the present landed system was to deny to the people adequate employment, the consequence of which was that they starved whilst their country was being annually drained of provisions. The monster evil of Ireland, however, was, the uncertainty of tenure, and the want of a law compelling the landlord to give adequate compensation to tenants for such improvements as they might have effected, by the expenditure of their labour, or capital, or both, upon their holdings. He then drew a vivid picture of what had been effected for the tenant, the landlord, and the country, in cases in which such compensation was given, and held up the counties of Limerick and Down as striking specimens of the two systems. Reasonably sized farms, held immediately of the head landlord, were no indispensable condition to the improvement of the country, as was also the abolition of the prevailing system of joint tenancy. So long as there was a middle man between the landlord and tenant, the latter would have no security whatever for compensation for improvements. Without an amended law of landlord and tenant, such a poor-law as was proposed would be utterly inefficient. The two together would act most beneficially, and would prevent that confiscation of property which some affected to apprehend.

Sir DENHAM NORREYS seconded the motion. Viscount CASTLEREAGH and Colonel CONOLLY objected to making tenant-right a matter of compulsion.

Mr. LABOUCHERE thought that a measure such as was asked for by the honourable gentleman, well digested and properly prepared, would be a suitable accompaniment to the other measures proposed for the improvement of Ireland, and the noble lord at the head of the Government had already declared his intention of introducing a measure for this purpose at an early period. It was necessary, in interfering between landlord and tenant, to proceed with caution, and, if they did so, he thought that it might be done very advantageously for Ireland. He hoped the honourable gentleman would withdraw his resolution, and, if not, he would move the previous question.

Mr. S. O'BRIEN asked the Secretary for Ireland when such a measure was likely to be brought in. Mr. LABOUCHERE could not mention the exact time, but thought that they would be able to introduce it before Easter.

Mr. S. CRAWFORD, seeing no prospect of getting such a measure introduced at as early a period as he wished for it, would consent to withdraw his motion, but would, at the same time, give notice that he would take an early opportunity of himself moving for leave to bring in a bill which would embody his views upon the subject.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK AND THE MINISTERS.

On Thursday, Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved that the order of the day for the second reading of the Railways (Ireland) Bill be read.

Mr. SMITH O'BRIEN rose, and made an appeal to Lord George Bentinck to postpone the second reading, in order that the temporary measures advanced by Government for relief of the starving Irish might be safely disposed of. Had Government brought forward a rival railway plan, Mr. O'Brien should have felt bound to support it in order to save a change of Ministry; but in the absence of such a plan he should give his support to Lord George, only asking him to postpone his bill for a few days. Mr. SHAW entirely concurred in what Mr. O'Brien said.

Mr. GRATTAN interposed a characteristic speech, vehemently advocating Lord George's plan, and touching upon the Ministerial modes of action as ineffective. What had been done to check the spread of fever?

Military officers had been sent over to Ireland, with long spurs and long moustachios, to open soup-kitchens [a laugh]. But he was too old a soldier to be imposed upon. He did not, for his own part, believe that they had been sent over to provide soup for the people, but to survey with a military view the lakes, the mountains, and the woods of Ireland ["Hear," and a laugh].

Lord JOHN RUSSELL preferred a prayer the reverse of Mr. O'Brien's and Mr. Shaw's: he asked Lord George Bentinck to go on at once; and, if it were too late then, he would give Lord George priority for the next evening. That to which he did object was, that the bill should be postponed, leaving the whole matter in suspense and uncertainty, without its being known what course Parliament would adopt, or to what course the Government of the country would be pledged. He and Lord George had acted quite independently of party feeling; but he could not accept the proposed scheme of railways as a wise measure: it could not be made consistent with the course of financial policy which Ministers had deemed it their duty to adopt, and Lord John thought that it ought to be rejected. Let no member vote under the impression that Government would advance some other scheme involving large expenditure: they would not have the power. Let Lord George, therefore, either abandon his bill, or press it at once.

Lord George was urged to go on by Mr. OSBORNE and another member, of name unknown—to postpone his motion by Mr. PEIRSE BUTLER and Mr. MORGAN JOHN O'CONNELL.

Lord GEORGE BENTINCK felt in a very embarrassing situation. At four o'clock that day he received a deputation from the meeting of Irish members in Palace-yard, asking him to postpone the motion. He felt the deepest pain at the request, as he thought that no measure would be more effectual in relieving the people of Ireland and the finances of the country. His friends had come from all quarters—from distant quarters of England and Scotland, and from foreign parts—to support him; but they would not set their convenience against that of the Irish people; and he should have been quite willing to postpone the motion. He had heard with the deepest regret Lord John Russell's announcement, that the fate of the Ministry was to be staked on the issue of the motion. He had promised not to make Ireland the battle-field of party; but, challenged by the First Minister of the Crown, and told that it would not be for the advantage of the country to delay, Lord George felt that he should be wanting in duty to her Majesty, as well as to the country, if he were to hesitate to proceed. If they could not approach the subject free from all party feeling—if Lord John was determined to desert the helm in the present difficulties of Ireland—Lord George and his friends were not appalled by those difficulties, and would not shrink from any responsibility that might devolve upon them. [This announcement was loudly cheered by the noble lord's supporters.]

Mr. ROEBUCK rebuked Lord George for unjustly attempting to fasten on Lord John the imputation of taking a party course. The principal measure for relief of the Irish poor only wanted its third reading:—

But there are other measures before the House besides that, and there is one in particular which affects the Irish landlords. Now it seems to me, that the phrase "the convenience of the Irish landlords" signifies that the passing of the one measure will enable them to get as much as they can from this side of the House; and when they have squeezed the noble lord at the head of the Government as far as they can, they will then try to bring in the noble lord the member for Lynn, and get something more from him.

Lord George talked of "his party"—

He calls it "my party!" [a laugh]—a "great party," called together from the four quarters of the globe for this occasion [cheers and laughter]—having no regard to their private "convenience;" but, then, is it not an Irish party, called together to settle this question, which affects the whole of the financial and mercantile concerns of this empire? Sir, there is not a man of all who are connected with the monetary system of this country but will tell you, that it is of vital importance that this great question, affecting £16,000,000 of money, should not be kept hanging over their heads [cheers]. And, therefore, I for one, who feel an interest in the wellbeing of my country, say it is the duty of the noble lord to bring this matter to an issue at once; and glad I am, that in spite of Irish "convenience," the noble lord is forced to bring it to an immediate decision.

The order of the day was read; but the debate on the second reading of the bill was postponed till Friday.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK'S IRISH RAILWAY SCHEME.

Lord G. BENTINCK, on Friday, moved the second reading of the Railways Bill for Ireland.

Sir CHARLES WOOD (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) opposed the motion, and said, that her Majesty's Government would not consent to make themselves responsible for carrying out its provisions. If he was appalled at the first proposal of a loan of £16,000,000, his dismay was rather increased than diminished on looking at the provisions of the bill. No doubt, Lord George Bentinck thought it calculated to relieve the distressed people of Ireland; it seemed more calculated to relieve the distressed shareholders of Ireland. But his surprise was diminished when he saw on the back the names of Mr. Hudson, who is so largely engaged in railways, and of Alderman Thompson, who is engaged in supplying materials for them. He allowed that railways would occasion employment; but had heard nothing to convince him that the State ought to ap-

pear as a great money-lender in the Irish money-market, or that the benefit realized would be at all commensurate with the sum lent. As to the value of the security, experience did not warrant much reliance on public works in Ireland: the majority of canals have not repaid either the principal or interest of advances; and the same may be said of large towns—Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and others. Lord George had over-estimated the probable amount of employment: even supposing that 1,500 miles of railway remain to be executed, which is doubtful, it was calculated by competent persons that the number of men employed would not exceed 45,000, instead of 110,000. It is doubtful whether every railway labourer has four persons dependent on him; railway labourers are seldom family men. They are also skilled labourers, brought by the contractor from a distance. On the whole, therefore, the measure would be ineffectual to give relief to the destitute poor. On the other hand, Sir Charles pointed out clauses, especially the 29th and 31st, which seemed deliberately framed to protect private speculators from loss in case the railways should fail. Recurring to the question which Mr. Roebuck had asked the other evening—and which, he allowed, Mr. Roebuck had a right to ask—Sir Charles promised that, before many days had elapsed, he would state what sum would be required for the Government measures in Ireland, and how it was proposed to raise it. Incidentally, Sir Charles took occasion to contrast the manner in which all classes have combined in the barony of Kilmore to meet the difficulties of the time, with the neglect and indifference of proprietors in the county of Mayo. In that county the landlords and their agents are pursuing a system of ejectment far more considerable than any ever previously known. Hence the crowds of starving Irish men and women who are now landing at Liverpool from the Sligo steamers. At the quarter sessions of the barony of Ballina, 6,400 processes have been entered, of which 4,000 are at the suit of the landlords for rent. Sir Charles repeated what he had stated in September last, that, to redeem Ireland, a social revolution is necessary; and he glanced cursorily at the Government measures, as all tending to one object—the improvement of the land, to increase its productiveness, and add to the quantity of human food.

Mr. HENRY BAILLIE would not consent to an appropriation for Irish railways, unless a similar appropriation were made for Scotland.

Mr. STUART defended the measure; which was also supported by Sir JOHN TYRELL and Lord BERNARD.

Mr. F. T. BARING opposed it; enlarging on the ill effects of throwing vast amounts of Exchequer Bills into a declining market.

Mr. DILLON BROWNE would support the measure, if he knew Lord George's intentions with respect to the political condition of Ireland: he would give his vote in return for a pledge to increase the franchise and appropriate surplus Church revenues to secular purposes.

Mr. CHAPLIN wished Government to adopt Lord George's idea, and to modify it according to a plan which Mr. Chaplin proposed.

Mr. HUDSON replied to Mr. Baring. He insisted that funds could easily be found; arguing from his own experience in raising funds in England: not two months ago, he and some friends had raised £10,000,000 in one week.

He did not see why Ireland should not rise to the level of England [hear, hear]. It was by identifying ourselves with her that we would succeed best in cementing the union, and making Ireland grateful for our having come forward in the hour of her need, and given her those blessings which the sister country enjoyed [hear, hear]. He trusted that he had, in what he had been saying, the concurrence of an honourable friend of his (Mr. Chaplin). He knew that he had the concurrence of the whole railway world [loud cheers] in attempting, by the measure before the House, to benefit Ireland, and not Ireland only, but England with her [hear, hear]. He disclaimed interested motives in advocating these railway undertakings. He was content to remain as he was, still to occupy the throne on which he sat [loud cheers and laughter].

Mr. GOULBURN backed Mr. Baring; also enlarging on the derangement which the advance of sixteen millions would cause in all the relations of the money market; while, after all, it would not release Government from the responsibility of providing for the destitution in Ireland. If English capital could be profitably employed in Ireland, no doubt it would find its way thither.

The debate was adjourned; and soon afterwards the House itself adjourned till Monday.

On Monday evening the adjourned debate was resumed by

The Marquis of GRANBY, who pleaded on behalf of Lord George Bentinck's scheme.

Mr. W. BROWN contended that the measure would be of no immediate advantage to the Irish people, whilst it would probably turn out to be disastrous to both the Government and the speculators. The adequacy of the security offered for the proposed advances might be gathered from the fact that every railway in Ireland, with the exception of three, was at a discount. The proposal was a doubtful and hazardous mercantile speculation, upon which, in the present state of the money market both at home and abroad, it would be imprudent to embark. It would be seen to entail additional taxation upon the country, whilst they were endeavouring to diminish rather than to increase the range of taxation. The credit of the country must be maintained, and that credit would be seriously compromised by the adoption of the measure before the House. There was no analogy between the present measure and the conduct of the American Government in reference to public works.

Colonel MURE denounced the scheme embodied in the bill as one of flagrant public immorality. It was "an extensive scheme for the encouragement of railway gambling, under the auspices of the State." Such railways were insecure and creditless enterprises, and essentially bad concerns could not be metamorphosed into essentially good ones by the State's interfering to an extent which subjected it to two-thirds of the risk of the loss.

Mr. Alderman THOMPSON and Mr. NEWDEGATE supported, and Mr. F. FRENCH opposed, the motion.

Mr. J. O'CONNELL said that Lord G. Bentinck's plan had this merit about it, that it proposed a large additional expenditure to that proposed by the Government to be made in Ireland. He had hoped that the Government would have adopted the measure, or proposed some system of Government railways—a system which the French Government had so beneficially adopted. The Government had not done so, and it was because it had refrained from doing this, and held out no hope of its throwing itself upon any other scheme which would give rise to the increased expenditure which was necessary at present for Ireland, that he would give his humble vote for the bill. The remainder and bulk of the hon. gentleman's speech consisted of an elaborate refutation of the insinuations made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and by other members of the House as to the failure of Ireland in paying either principal or interest of previous advances, and of a statement designed to show that, as to fiscal matters, both the letter and the spirit of the "treaty of union" had, as regarded Ireland, been frequently and flagrantly violated.

Mr. CORRY and Sir W. CLAY regretted being obliged to vote against the measure.

Mr. SHAW admitted that his feelings were with the measure, but, under existing circumstances, his reason and his judgment constrained him to vote against it. He could not take upon himself the responsibility of giving a vote, at the present moment, which might have the effect of turning out the Government and of forming a new one at such a crisis, on a question like this.

Sir W. MOLESWORTH opposed the bill, as providing for the squandering of the money of this country on idle and mischievous projects in Ireland.

Mr. D'ISRAELI commenced by criticizing the conduct of the Government in reference to the bill, in order to attach to it all the responsibility of the present position of parties as regarded it. After a great deal of talk, foreign to the subject of debate, the honourable gentleman went into a lengthy statement, which, he contended, subverted the calculations of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and from which it appeared that, on an average, about 57 per cent. of the whole outlay on railways had been expended in England, France, and Belgium, in the payment of wages to labourers on the works. He then read several documents and communications made to himself, to show the readiness with which the Irish labourer became an adept in railway labour, and others, which showed that instead of railway labourers being unmarried men without children, they were, in most instances, married men, many of them having families of from eight to twelve. He then disposed of what he termed the first great objection made to the measure—the "non-commensurate employment of the people." There were two other objections to dispose of, each of which, like the first, had been brought forward by a Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Baring had warned them of the financial difficulties which surrounded the question, and had instanced the cases of France and Belgium as illustrating the danger to which the proposed measure would subject them. He (Mr. D'Israeli) contended, that the experience of these two countries, so far as railways were concerned, only encouraged them to proceed with the scheme; for the undertakings in which the Governments of these two countries had embarked had benefited them in every way, the advantage accruing to their credit and revenues not being the least. The next objection was grounded upon the impolicy of interfering with private enterprise; but there was no private enterprise in Ireland to interfere with, whilst the direct consequence of the measure before them would be to create that private enterprise about which they were told to be so careful. The hon. gentleman then concluded by taking a general survey of the benefits which Ireland would derive from the success of the measure—a measure which, he said, "did not aim to upset a government, but which did aspire to benefit a nation."

On the motion of Mr. B. OSBORNE the debate was then adjourned.

TEMPORARY RELIEF (IRELAND) BILL.

In the House of Lords, on Monday night, in moving the second reading of the Destitute Persons (Ireland) Bill,

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE very briefly explained the scope and tenor of the bill, whereupon

Lord BROUGHAM expatiated at some length upon the duty of a Government, which was not, he maintained, to provide a whole people with labour or food, but to protect property, and to throw every facility in the way of the people acquiring both labour and provisions for themselves. From this principle no departure should ever be made, except when called for by a pressing and unforeseen necessity. Even then they ought to proceed with the utmost caution, inasmuch as in such cases it was extremely difficult to hit upon any measure of relief which might not be productive of greater evils than it was sought to remove by it. The great evil which they had to apprehend from such legislation as they were now embarking upon, was that the people might be induced by it to trust to extraneous support, instead of relying upon their own energies and industry. As to the repayment of the moneys proposed to be advanced by this and other Government measures, he confessed to entertaining but very little hopes of it. Gentlemen connected with Ireland might express their willingness to pay; but he was much inclined to doubt their ability to do so, and, indeed, many of them admitted their own doubts upon the subject. The present necessities of Ireland, however, required that a great effort should be made to relieve them, and he was gratified, under such circumstances, to witness the general good feeling which prevailed in England towards the sister country.

Lord STANLEY thought the noble and learned lord had dealt too severely with the Irish landlords, and that some of his animadversions upon the people of that country might have been spared. The landlords cheerfully acquiesced in the proposal to make them responsible for all moneys to be advanced to remedy the evils existing in the present condition of Ireland. He was not prepared to admit that all the provisions of the present bill were unexceptionable, but he would not now object to it, trusting to the discretion of the Government

in carrying it out. He would, however, warn the Government against enacting a permanent poor-law for Ireland, with the majority of its representatives so decidedly opposed to it. If they did enact such a law, it would be advisable to extend to Irish property so burdened that degree of protection against waste and abuse which property possessed in England.

The Earl of MOUNTCASHEL defended the Irish people from the insinuation of idleness in which Lord Brougham had indulged against them.

Earl FITZWILLIAM and Lord MONTEAGLE concurred in the main with Lord Stanley as to the views which he had expressed in reference to a permanent poor-law in Ireland.

After some remarks from Lord CAMPBELL, and from the Marquis of LANSDOWNE in reply, the bill was read a second time.

CHURCH REFORM.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, Lord VIVIAN moved for a return of the value of each living held in commendam or otherwise by the Bishop of St. Asaph or the Bishop of Bangor, or by non-resident clergymen holding livings in those dioceses; the total value of each living in each of those dioceses; with some other particulars relative thereto.—Ordered.

Earl FITZWILLIAM presented a petition from Mr. J. Jordan, a clergyman in Oxfordshire:—

The petitioner's principal object was an increase in the number of those who were engaged in administering episcopal functions in the Church of England; but at the same time he expressed an opinion (in which the noble lord observed that he himself did not agree) that it was desirable that the bishops should be removed from their seats in that House, and relieved from legislative duties. The petitioner proposed that the number of provinces and dioceses in England should be doubled, and that a diocese should contain a population not exceeding 500,000 where the inhabitants were concentrated, and not exceeding 300,000 where they were dispersed. He further prayed that all the episcopal incomes, which at present were excessively large, and which were in great part derived from impropriations, be reduced, and the saving applied to the increase of the number of the working clergy, which saving he considered would provide for the new bishops, and at least 800 clergymen, at a yearly stipend of £100. With regard to cathedrals, he proposed that the canons and prebendaries should have districts assigned to them, and that cathedral establishments should be made to serve as seminaries for the education of clergymen. He proposed also (in which the noble earl concurred) that the laity should have a share in the administration of the affairs of the Church; that there should be diocesan councils, in which laymen and clergymen should be combined, the councils to be advisory and ancillary to the bishops in the exercise of various functions.

Without being able to express adherence to all the opinions put forth in the petition, he (Earl Fitzwilliam) was quite sure that it was well worthy of the attention of the House.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE would not at present say more, than that the commissioners for inquiring into the state of the bishoprics in England and Wales, under the Royal Commission just issued, would meet in a few days, and one of their principal objects would be, to consider the adequacy of the number of bishops to discharge the important duties which that order had to perform.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE DESTITUTE PERSONS (IRELAND) BILL was read a third time and passed, in the House of Commons, on Friday, and, with the Brewing from Sugar Bills, was read a first time in the House of Lords, on the same evening.

IRISH POOR-LAWS.—Mr. SHARMAN CRAWFORD obtained leave, on Thursday, to bring in a bill for the better securing of Irish poor-laws.

COMMONS INCLOSURE ACT.—Mr. AGLIONBY has obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Commons Inclosure Act.

CHURCH REVENUES IN MANCHESTER.—On Friday, this subject was again a topic of conversation. The Marquis of LANSDOWNE read a letter from the Dean of Manchester, complaining that, in the course of a recent discussion, imputations had been cast upon him that he performed his legal but not his moral duty. Lord STANLEY was still of opinion that the intention of the charter was that the wardens and canons should reside. If they did not reside, they violated, not their legal engagement, but the moral responsibility which was vested in them. He suggested the appointment of a committee of inquiry. Lord BROUGHAM would be happy to act on that committee. He was of opinion that the payments of the fines did not relieve from the moral obligation of residing. Lord CAMPBELL said that the intention of the founder evidently was that the canons and wardens should reside.

THE WELLINGTON STATUE.—On Monday, in reply to Mr. Berkeley, Lord MORPETH said that the remainder of the scaffolding around the statue is to be taken down, as the view is obstructed thereby, at the instance and expense of the sub-committee, who, if opinion is then adverse to the site, will remove the statue at their own expense. The north side of Waterloo-place was, in the opinion of Government, the best site for it.

IRISH RAILWAYS.—Mr. B. OSBORNE gave notice that in case the Irish Railway Bill were thrown out, he would submit a resolution calling upon Government to make provision for the purchase of all railways in Ireland in which progress had been made, and in favour of which the Board of Works reported.

ABUSES ON THE PUBLIC WORKS.—Mr. ROEBUCK presented a petition from a poor man named John Hogan, residing at Adare, in the county of Limerick, which stated that his family, a short time since, were in number four, and that he and his son were employed on the public works by the agents of the Government. He had the misfortune to lose one of the members of his family, a daughter; and, in consequence of his loss, he was dismissed from the works. Under this singular case of hardship he applied to the Board of Works, and their answer was that they could not relieve him. The petition went on to say that it was lamentable to allow such determined oppression to be exercised upon a poor family who had not a single perch of land, whilst there were instances to be found in the locality of people who

had both land and corn, with money in the savings' bank, working on these roads, having been sent there by their landlords for the purpose of enabling them to pay their rent better [hear, hear].

ANTI-SLAVERY LEAGUE.—HALL OF COMMERCE.—A meeting of the above Association was held at the Hall of Commerce, on Wednesday evening last. W. H. Ashurst, Esq., on taking the chair, said he had been accustomed, in such meetings, to appear amongst the audience, and nothing but a deep sense of the enormity of American slavery, the subject they were convened to consider, could have induced him to occupy the chair on this occasion. He would not be deterred by a compromise of the evil with the means adopted for its removal. The Christian and philanthropist had only to ascertain that their cause was a righteous one; the result was in the hand of God. The spread of enlightened principles, the diffusion of the English language, and the advance of Free-trade were exercising an irresistible influence in the removal of slavery. In America, there were hopeful signs. It had become a breeches-pocket question. He would conclude by calling on Mr. Douglass, who addressed the meeting in a long and eloquent speech, which was interrupted by repeated expressions of applause. Mr. Smith was then called upon, and gave a concise account of the formation and progress of the Anti-slavery League. He concluded by moving a resolution in support of the League; which was seconded by W. Shaen, Esq., and carried unanimously. Several donations were announced, and the meeting concluded by a vote of thanks to the Chairman.—PENTONVILLE.

—A meeting of the Association was, also, held at the British School-room, Denmark-street, on Friday evening last. Thomas Shepherd, Esq., occupied the chair. The meeting was addressed at great length by Messrs. Smith and Douglass, after which a resolution in support of the League was passed unanimously.—We understand meetings are arranged to be held at Hoxton Academy Chapel, Hall of Commerce adjourned meeting, and at Mr. J. Burnet's, Camberwell.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE REV. GEORGE COLLISON.—The remains of this revered minister were interred in the family vault at Marsh-street Chapel, Walthamstow, on Friday. The procession left Hackney at twelve, and reached the chapel at two o'clock. There were ten mourning coaches filled with mourners, and everything proceeded with an order suitable to the solemnity of the occasion. The respect with which the deceased was regarded at Walthamstow was shown by the closing of all shops and private houses, and the attendance of many of the inhabitants at the service. Among those present were Drs. Smith, Cox, Morison, and Hobson; Messrs. Hunt, Timpson, Tidman, Seaborn, Ransom, Mannering, J. J. Freeman, H. Richards, M'Crae, Viney, J. Tippetts, and Woodyard, ministers; Messrs. J. Truman, John Foulger, Trego, Joshua Wilson, J. Sparke, Ebenezer Clarke, Charles Reed, J. J. Luntley, some relatives of the family, the students at present in the College, and several other ministers and gentlemen. Mr. S. Ransom opened the service by reading portions of Scripture, after which Mr. A. Tidman delivered an address, and Dr. Cox closed with prayer. The body was then deposited in the vault outside the chapel. The whole service was deeply interesting. Funeral sermons were preached on Sunday morning in Bethnal-green Chapel, where Mr. Collison had attended for many years, by Dr. Pye Smith; and in the evening, by Dr. Reed, at Wycliffe Chapel; and Dr. Burder, at Hackney.

SCENE AT THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL.—A Court was held on Thursday, and was crowded with members. The chief business to be transacted related to the Qualification Bill. Mr. Ashurst moved that a report, signed by sixty-eight members, be read: it requested the Lord Mayor to restore the Qualification Bill to the paper of business. The Lord Mayor, however, declined to comply with the request, and read from a paper in his hand his reasons for refusing. He was frequently interrupted by scoffs and hootings. There was then a division, as to whether the Court did or did not agree with the recommendation of the report. The affirmative was carried by a majority of 116. Mr. J. Wood moved the third reading of the Qualification Bill, but the Lord Mayor refused to put the question. His lordship persevered in his refusal, and left the hall amidst groans and hisses. In the course of a clamorous discussion, Sir Peter Laurie remarked, that "the Lord Mayor had no right to do wrong," an assertion which was much applauded.

EXTENSION OF THE SUFFRAGE.—This important subject will be submitted to the people of Leeds on Tuesday next. A requisition, signed by no less than 128 of our burgesses, has been presented to the Mayor (George Goodman, Esq.), requesting him to convene a meeting of the inhabitants of Leeds, "to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning the House of Commons for an extension of the suffrage to all male adults of the age of twenty-one, of sane mind, and who are not undergoing the sentence of the law for any offence." His worship has very readily complied with the request, and fixed one o'clock on Tuesday for the meeting.—Leeds Times.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND.—The decease of this nobleman occurred on Thursday, at Alnwick Castle. The Duke had long been crippled by the gout; but the event happened suddenly, while he lay in bed. The deceased Duke was born in 1785; he succeeded to the title in 1817; and was married in that year, to the second daughter of Lord Powis. In 1825 he was State Ambassador to the Court of France at the coronation of Charles Tenth, and in 1829 he was Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. He was subsequently chosen Chancellor of the University of Cambridge; was a Knight of the Garter, and the patron of eleven church livings. The Duchess of Northumberland was governess to Queen Victoria in her childhood. The Duke having left no issue, his brother, Lord Prudhoe, succeeds to the title and estates.

Mr. O'Connell is unwell; so much so that he has not been able to attend the House of Commons since Wednesday.

THE MARQUIS OF NORTHAMPTON has accepted the office of Patron of the College of Preceptors.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

The Hibernia brings advices from New York to the 30th ult. The most interesting feature of the news relates to the slavery question. Memorials have been presented in the Senate, from the Legislature of Vermont, against the Mexican war, and the acquisition of more slave territory; and also from several other quarters. But by far the most important signs of the times on this branch of the Mexican war and its results, will be found in the recent proceedings of the Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York legislatures. In each of these bodies resolutions have been passed adverse to annexing any more slave states or territories to the United States. The following is a copy of the resolution adopted in each case:—

Resolved, That if any territory is hereafter acquired by the United States, or annexed thereto, the act by which such territory is acquired or annexed, whatever such act may be, should contain an unalterable fundamental article or provision, whereby slavery, or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, shall be for ever excluded from the territory acquired or annexed.

Thus the battle of slavery and anti-slavery is becoming rapidly mingled with the elements of the war; and as the northern, or anti-slavery, portion of the union will probably give a majority of votes, it is to be hoped that this new issue may tend to promote peace, for it can hardly be expected that the Mexican war will be popular in the south when there is no chance of extending southern institutions and slavery.

Oregon and appropriation bills continue to occupy the time of Congress. In the Senate on the 28th, Mr. Upham presented a resolution from the Legislature of Vermont against the Mexican war and the acquisition of slave territory. Mr. Cilley, in the Senate, offered a resolution to the effect that a speedy and honourable peace was desirable, and that, as the United States constitution did not provide for the holding of foreign territory, that the President be requested to withdraw the United States troops to some point in the United States: laid over. In the House, Mr. Stephens offered peace resolutions, declaring that the object of the war was an honourable peace, and not the invasion for conquest, nor the dismemberment of Mexico: lost by eighty-eight nays to seventy-six yeas—a pretty strong vote. Mr. Schenck offered similar resolutions, which were laid on the table. Mr. Browne offered resolutions in favour of following up the war with vigour, and his resolutions were ordered to be printed. The scheme for appointing a lieutenant-general, although twice defeated in Congress, will, it is probable, be brought forward again. Mr. Benton's speech has made an impression in favour of the proposition. The President has signed the loan bill for 23,000,000 dollars, with a rider of 5,000,000 dollars. All the money, and much more, will be wanted for the war.

Accounts from the seat of war are not of much importance. At the latest dates, General Scott was at Brazos St. Jago, awaiting the arrival of troops, with which it was expected he would, in conjunction with the squadron, invest Vera Cruz. Accounts from Tampico to the 5th ult. state that General Shields had divested the Mexican authorities of Tampico of civil power, and entrusted it to a board of commissioners. From the Gulf squadron accounts state that an attack on the castle of San Juan de Ulloa was anticipated. A letter of General Taylor's, strongly censuring the Government, had found its way into the papers. It is thought he will return home.

The Mexican Congress has refused to entertain or receive favourably propositions for peace until every United States soldier is withdrawn from the Mexican soil, and every United States ship of war from the blockade. Only nineteen members of the Mexican Congress voted in favour of peace! And afterwards a majority of the Congress took a solemn oath, that they would never cease from war until the United States forces were withdrawn from Mexico. Santa Anna was elected by eleven states out of twenty—so that his competitor, Elorriaga (the first time I ever heard of the latter man), ran him very hard. Three commissioners have been appointed to negotiate the Mexican loan of 20,000,000 dollars in England.

PORTUGAL.

By advices from Lisbon, to the 10th inst., we learn that several small actions had taken place between the Queen's troops and the insurgents, in most of which the former had the advantage. M'Donnell, the principal Miguelite general, had been killed, together with most of his staff, near Chaves—an event of the first consequence—and a guerilla of seventy men had been routed near Thomar, and twelve of the insurgents killed; but, on the other hand, the insurgents had obtained a great advantage at Alcaçar do Sal, in Alemtejo, where Major Ilharco, with 130 men, had been surprised and made prisoners by Galamba's guerilla.

Our new Minister Plenipotentiary, Sir H. Seymour, was hourly expected at Lisbon. Mediation by England between the contending parties was spoken of, but there was no probability of the Queen's acceding to this proposition.

The most perfect tranquillity prevailed at Oporto, and the city was abundantly supplied with provisions. The export of Indian corn from Oporto and Viana is to be prohibited. The decree of the Junta relative to the one, and of the Queen's Government to the other port, are expected to appear immediately. No junction between the Junta and Miguelites exists, or will be made, though several persons called Miguelites take service with the Junta. The Queen's General, Marshal Saldanha, had not advanced beyond the line of the Vouga, his head-quarters being at Agueda, eleven leagues from Oporto. The Queen's General, Casal, was entrenched at Viana, menaced by the Junta Chief Das Antas, at Barcellos, about eight leagues from Oporto, and within three of Viana.

FRANCE.

The Union Monarchique announces the receipt of letters from London, stating that Lord Palmerston has addressed a note to each of the northern Powers, to demand their opinion, in case the marriage of Queen

Isabella should prove sterile, and that of the Duke de Montpensier fruitful. It was believed in London that the reply of the three Cabinets would reach London by the 20th inst. Lord Palmerston insinuated in his note that the British Cabinet would be disposed eventually to recognize the rights of the Count de Montemolin, and that it would be desirable that the four Powers should have a unanimous opinion on the subject.

PRUSSIA.

The *Prussian State Gazette* publishes an official and authentic list of members in the new United Diet. In the first of the "States" are included ten Princes of the Royal Family who have attained their majority; and also various "Chapters," each of which holds a collective vote. We subjoin the totals:—

The State of the Princes, Counts, and Seigneurs..	80
The State of the Knights	231
The State of the Cities	182
The State of the Rural Communes	124
Grand total	617

The Diet is to meet at Berlin in April.

According to Paris advices of Thursday, M. Guizot had received an official communication from the Prussian Ambassador, signifying that Prussia entertains views on the Montpensier marriage substantially the same with those of England.

The Queen of Prussia was taken very seriously ill on the 30th of January. The disorder, a catarrh with fever, increased with great violence for three days; but on the morning of the 3rd instant it had much abated.

NEW ZEALAND.

Late intelligence has been received from Auckland, by the arrival of the bark Cecilia. The native chief Heki, who formerly disturbed the northern colony, continues quiet, and appears likely to remain so. In the south the vigorous measures of Governor Grey have completely suppressed the rebellious efforts of Ranghieta, whose brother was taken prisoner in Cook's Straits, and has been executed, after an investigation which proved his participation in the late disturbances on the river Hutt. The course pursued by the new colonial government at Wellington gives entire satisfaction.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

ABOLITION OF SLAVE-MARKETS IN TURKEY.—The Sultan has ordered the abolition of slave-markets. This is the first step in that change which, in its results, will be the most important that has ever taken place in the administration of the Ottoman empire. The Sultan has alluded publicly, in addressing his ministers, to this unlooked-for event, and his Majesty's words imply that he enters fully into the humane and philanthropic sentiment of Lord Palmerston, and that all the suggestions of his lordship on this subject will be finally adopted.—*Daily News*.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION IN CONGRESS.—"On the slavery question," says the *New York Sun*, "there are long debates in Congress of violent character. Northern Congressmen have resolved to oppose the extension of slavery in the new territories, and have defeated the proposed extension of slavery in Oregon. In consequence of this, the southern members threaten to dissolve the Union, just as northern members threatened to dissolve the Union when Texas was annexed. Seeing the rapid progress of free white emigration over the continent, and in view of the character of the territory conquered from Mexico, we hope the south will anticipate the natural course of events, and agree to exclude slavery from all new territories, and thus extinguish this fire-brand."

THE WEATHER ON THE CONTINENT.—Lieutenant Waghorn describes the weather on the continent to be severe beyond all recollection, so much so, that the contents of his spirit flask (less than half water) froze within the folds of his travelling dress. He says, that owing to the overflowing of all the great rivers in central Europe, and other causes, the utmost apprehension prevailed in all the states he has been in, that extreme dearth, of nearly every sort of provisions, will be experienced next year.—*Correspondent of the Liverpool Albion*.

THE DUKE OF SOTOMAYOR A FREE-TRADER.—It is said that the Duke of Sotomayor, the head of the new Spanish ministry, is a staunch advocate of free-trade principles. During the late discussion on the sugar duties, the Duke laboured hard for the cause of Spain, in memorializing for the right of admission of Cuba and Porto Rico sugar on the same terms as that of other countries, in which his views were strongly supported by Lord Palmerston. On the late occasion of the Cobden festival in Spain, he also explained himself adverse to restrictions in commerce. Under these circumstances, there would have been more hope of a favourable treaty of commerce between this country and Spain, if the Duke of Sotomayor had been able to construct a Cabinet.

THE DUCHESS DE MONTPENSIER.—Her Royal Highness having completed her fifteenth year on Saturday week, the Marquis of Bunalua, accompanied by the persons composing the Spanish embassy, proceeded to the Tuilleries to pay their homage to the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier, who received at the same time all the Spaniards residing in Paris. A private letter says that, "within a few months, her Royal Highness will become a mother."

SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS.—The stocks of bread stuffs, at the north, says the *New York Express*, are gradually growing less, and the trade in grain will soon be turned to New Orleans. The great west, that in New Orleans finds the market for its leading staples, will soon have a chance to send the produce of their fields to Europe at higher rates than ever. Already the receipts of bread stuffs and provisions have increased beyond former years. Many weeks will not pass before the canals of Pennsylvania and New York will be in operation, pouring into the seaboard towns the still large stocks of grain now in the interior. The shipments of bread stuffs to Europe continued unabated, and are delayed only by the difficulty of procuring vessels. The high prices ruling here now will bring forward every

bushel of corn and barrel of flour that can be hurried to market, by river and railroad. The rivers are now closed by ice, but all railroads that tend to the coast are worked to their utmost capacity to throw supplies on the seaboard. From New Orleans a large quantity of flour and Indian meal will be sent forward, if vessels shall be there in sufficient number.

IRELAND.

THE FAMINE.

A desolating famine, such as one may read of in history, but with the actual horrors of which the present generation were unacquainted, is now raging in several counties of Ireland, whilst extreme destitution prevails all through the country. Fever and dysentery, produced by the want of food, are increasing in all directions, and the extent of mortality is daily becoming more alarming. The deaths in the union workhouses alone amounted to nearly 1,500 in the last week of January! But of those establishments no record of mortality is kept. The coroners are totally unable to hold inquests on the numbers who die daily of starvation and cold. In fine, as a letter from Leitrim expresses it, "the peasantry are fading away from the face of the earth."

The Government are acting with the utmost energy and liberality to alleviate this dreadful calamity. The Lord Lieutenant is advancing a sum equal to the full amount contributed to each relief committee, with liberty to supply food gratis to the destitute where the workhouses are crowded, and this is the case everywhere, with the single exception of Castlebar.

The provincial journals are crowded with details of the progress of famine and disease. Mr. P. Ward, P.P., Partry, in a letter to the Mayo paper, dated Feb. 7, says—

It is awful to contemplate the heart-rending state of the poor people living in the mountains of Partry. Five have died the last six days of hunger. Famine is making its awful strides of desolation. Fever and pestilence beginning to rage in every village.

The *Cork Reporter* of Thursday, which contains the particulars of eleven more inquests in Mallow, where the verdicts were "Death from want of food," gives the following deplorable account of the state of the west and south of the county:—

In Skibbereen and two adjoining parishes there are 10,000 human beings destitute. In the words of a private letter, "famine, disease, and death, are rapidly increasing. The unfortunates are carried to the grave in carts, and men are hired to undertake that task; for if friends or relatives survive, they will not touch, if even they could remove masses of putrefaction." In Bantry, fifteen inquests were held in a single day, and twenty bodies more were lying in the neighbourhood, all dead from famine. In Bere, in the district of Clanlaurence, a correspondent sends us the names of eleven men who have recently perished, either on the roads, or in their houses, from starvation. In the parish of Kilkaslin, the very sea-weeds are exhausted near the shore, and the bodies of those drowned in the attempt to wade out further for that substitute for food have been seen floating in the bay. In Crookhaven and Kilmoe, the letter of its pastor, who was obliged to leave his impoverished and starving flock and come here personally to beg their food, told the empire that a new grave-yard was added to the old, and that putrefying bodies lay from five to ten days without interment. In Coachford, the labourers are literally starving.

ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF GRAIN.—There has been a complete reaction in the grain markets, and prices are again on the advance. At the Corn Exchange, Dublin, on Friday, wheat, barley, and oats, were each fully 1s. per barrel dearer. The price of the 4lb. loaf, it was calculated, would be 11d. this week. All other kinds of provisions are equally dear: vegetables are fast disappearing from the Dublin markets. The whole face of the country was one sheet of ice.

THE POOR-LAW.—The Roman Catholic clergy of the united dioceses of Cloyne and Ross have commenced a movement in favour of extending to Ireland the provisions of the English poor-law, so as to ensure the right to out-door relief.

The work of making "presentments" goes on with undiminished vigour. The *Dublin Gazette* is crammed with proclamations, calling for new sessions in every part of the country; and, according to private accounts, there are roads and other public works in many districts which cannot by any possibility be finished for many months.

THE REPRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE, which sits at Dublin, in connexion with the Irish party, have adopted resolutions approving of Lord G. Bentinck's railway bill—strongly objecting to the right to relief, and to the system of out-door relief in any shape—recommending the adoption of electoral divisions, and suggesting a limited property-tax, limited in amount for the support of the poor.

EXPENSE OF GAME CONVICTIONS.—The following motion, of which Dr. Lee, of Hartwell-house, has given notice, will be discussed at the next Bucks Quarter Sessions:—"That all expenses incurred in the prosecution of game-law offenders shall be paid by the parties prosecuting, and not by the county; and that the clerk of the peace be instructed to give an account of the number of persons convicted of such offences, with the expenses relating thereto, from the year 1840 to 1846."—*Bucks Gazette*.

EDUCATION IN THE ARMY.—The authorities of the war office have issued a notification, that a number of young men, who must be unmarried, and not exceeding twenty-five years of age, are required in the training-school, Royal Military Asylum, at Chelsea, for the purpose of being educated and sent out as schoolmasters to different regiments, both of cavalry and infantry.

THE NAVIGATION-LAWS.—Under the temporary relaxation of the navigation-laws (says the *Northern Whig*), several Dutch East Indiamen have been chartered to bring grain from America. They can make a trip to the States and back while waiting to take their turn for the regular trade.

FAMINE IN IRELAND.

PROGRESS OF VOLUNTARY RELIEF.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The deputation from the Congregational Union of Ireland, being about to return to their respective spheres of labour among their distressed fellow-countrymen, on whose behalf they have been pleading before the British public, beg permission to express, through the columns of the *Nonconformist*, their grateful thanks to the numerous friends who have so generously and liberally responded to their appeal.

The kind expressions of sympathy which they have everywhere met with in the prosecution of their melancholy mission, have cheered their hearts and sustained their efforts, and led them to indulge the hope that the day is not far distant when the Christian people of England will thoroughly investigate the social and religious condition of Ireland, and put many things right which have hitherto been wrong.

As several Congregational collections which have been kindly promised are yet to be made, the deputation would respectfully request that all remittances be in future forwarded to Dr. Urwick, 3, Rathmines-mall, Dublin; Timothy Turner, Esq., Royal Bank, Foster-place, Dublin; or to the office of the *Patriot*, for the Congregational Union of Ireland.

With best thanks to you, Mr. Editor, for the kind interest you have shown in the object of our mission, and for your enlightened advocacy of justice to Ireland in every sense of the term—I remain, on behalf of the Deputation, most respectfully yours,

Feb. 16, 1847.

JAMES BEWGLASS.

A MEETING in behalf of Ireland was held in the Eastern Institution on Tuesday evening last, the 9th inst. The chair was taken by Dr. Reed, and the meeting addressed by a deputation from the Congregational Union of Ireland, consisting of Dr. Bewglass, Mr. A. King, of Dublin, and Mr. H. Martin, of Clonmel. After receiving the deeply affecting details of Irish destitution, misery, and famine presented by these gentlemen from our sister isle, it was moved by Mr. W. Woodhouse, and seconded by Mr. S. Davies:—"That this meeting deeply sympathizes in the extremely distressed state of Ireland as brought before them by the deputation now present, and earnestly hopes, that in the economy of an all-wise and gracious Providence, the present calamity may be over-ruled to the permanent and best interests of the kingdom." It was also moved by Mr. J. Kennedy, and seconded by Mr. Jerome Clapp:—"That this meeting pledges itself to adopt every available means, and to the utmost of its power, to aid in measures for the relief of so awful a calamity as that under which Ireland is now suffering."

BUGBROOKE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—The sum of £20 has been contributed by the Baptist congregation at the above place, towards the relief of Irish distress, to be transmitted to Mr. J. Bates, Banbridge, County Down, Ireland, (now near thirteen years an agent of the Baptist Irish Society,) for distribution in any locality where the destitution is most severe,—being a spontaneous offering from his native village.

WASTE OF FOOD IN THE MANUFACTURE OF DRINKS.

The following is a copy of a petition presented to the House of Commons, on behalf of the National Temperance Society, by Mr. Brotherton. The Society is desirous that the friends of Temperance throughout the country should adopt petitions of a like character:—

To the Honourable the House of Commons, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Committee of the National Temperance Society

Sheweth,—That your petitioners have deeply lamented the present scarcity of food, and having had opportunities for several years past of observing the condition of the people, more particularly as it is affected by the prevailing custom of taking intoxicating drinks as a common beverage, resulting in the wide-spread injury and demoralization of large masses of the population, beg to call the attention of your honourable House, in this season of calamity, to that intemperance, which, by testimonies of the highest judicial authorities, and all experience, is proved to be the prolific parent of crime, pauperism, and immorality.

And that in addition to these evils laying heavy pecuniary burdens upon the community, it is proved, that to supply the demand for intoxicating liquors, which a large number of the first medical and scientific men of the day have pronounced to be quite unnecessary for men in health, above seven millions of quarters of grain are annually consumed in the breweries and distilleries of the United Kingdom, and that enormous quantity is thus lost to the people as food.

That your Petitioners regard such an appropriation of the fruits of the earth, a grievous waste of the bounties of Divine Providence, and extremely mischievous in its consequences at all times: but when famine is desolating the sister country, when hundreds are dying of starvation, and when the price of food is raised to all, and presses heavily upon the industrious classes of the empire, they feel that legislative interference is absolutely necessary; and they can no longer forbear to urge upon your Honourable House the propriety of immediately arresting this fearful waste, by stopping the manufacture of intoxicating drinks.

That your Petitioners have, hitherto, confined their efforts to bringing before the people the consideration of those remedies for this great evil which lay within the scope of voluntary exertion. They, however, conceive that it is the duty of the legislature to remove, as far as practicable, the causes of our national intemperance; and they respectfully submit, that the measure to which they invite the attention of your Honourable House, would not only be directly beneficial in saving the food consumed, and mitigating the present calamity, but would be a great practical experiment in proof of the allegation made by your Petitioners, and the promoters and friends of the Temperance cause in general, that in proportion as the facilities for drinking are withdrawn, are the people improved in circumstances and elevated in morals.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

WILLIAM CASH, Chairman.

PRINCE ALBERT is requested in an address, being signed at Cambridge, to allow himself to be put in nomination for the Chancellorship of the University.

ANNIVERSARY OF HER MAJESTY'S WEDDING.—The seventh anniversary of the union of her Majesty with his Royal Highness Prince Albert was celebrated at Windsor, on Wednesday, with the usual rejoicings. On Wednesday, her Majesty, Prince Albert, and a party, drove out in sledges. On her return, the Queen gave audience to Lord John Russell; and in the evening she had a party. The sledges were again used on Thursday.

The Scotsman's "commissioner" to the Highlands appears to think that the Highlanders are by far too indolent, and that the distress, although severe, has in some instances been exaggerated.

CLERICAL EDUCATIONAL INSPECTORS.—The following is from the *Gazette* of Jan. 20:—"Her Majesty in Council was this day pleased, upon the representation of the right honourable the lords of the Committee of Council on Education, to appoint the Rev. Alexander Thurtell, M.A., fellow and tutor of Caius College, Cambridge; the Rev. J. J. Blandford; the Rev. Edward Douglas Tinling, M.A.; and the Rev. Muirhead Mitchell, M.A., to be four of her Majesty's inspectors of schools." This (says a correspondent) shows how the Governmental education will be handed over to the law-made Church. Four parsons inspectors of schools!

THE QUEEN has appointed Miss Sarah Anne Hildyard, one of the senior wards of the Adult Orphan Institution, to be sub-governess to the royal children.

On Sunday week Mr. Walter Buckle, of Exeter College, Oxford, was received at Oscott College, into the Romish church, by Dr. Wiseman.

REPRESENTATION OF MANCHESTER.—The professed friends of Lord Lincoln have, it is rumoured, prevailed upon him to offer himself as a candidate for Manchester; and we are told that his address is to appear to-morrow.—*Manchester Times*, of Monday.

The subscription at Rome for the Irish sufferers amounts to upwards of £2,000.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, February 17th.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

RAILWAYS FOR IRELAND.

The debate on Lord George Bentinck's Irish railway scheme in the House of Commons was brought to a close this morning. At half-past three o'clock the House divided, when there appeared—

For the motion 118
For the amendment 322

Majority against the second reading 204

The earlier part of the debate was taken up by speeches from Irish members. Mr. B. OSBORNE, Colonel CONOLLY, Sir JOHN WALSH, and Sir R. W. BARRON, argued in favour of the bill—Captain LAYARD and Mr. V. STUART against it.

Sir R. PEEL then delivered what may justly be termed the speech of the debate, confining himself, for the most part, to the financial bearings of the question, and the effects which the passing of the bill would produce on the commercial and monetary prospects of the country. Up to January, in the present year, the finances were in a prosperous condition, leaving a balance of from £8,000,000 to £9,000,000 in the Exchequer. If the expenditure for Ireland should amount to £9,000,000 or £10,000,000, as Lord J. Russell had intimated, he considered it probable that there would be a deficiency of not less than £7,000,000 or £8,000,000, comparing the expenditure with the actual receipt of revenue. He thought, too, that we must not limit the demand of Ireland on the national resources to the present year, and that therefore the burden on the finances would not be limited to the £8,000,000 or £9,000,000 which would be now required. Could her Majesty's Government then, charged with the maintenance of public credit, contract engagements, spreading over four years, for a further expenditure of £16,000,000? He showed, that by adopting Lord GEORGE BENTINCK's plan you would so surcharge the money market with unfunded debt, that you must of necessity increase enormously the interest upon it. He also showed, that the application of the national credit to commercial enterprise must entail expense, and impose additional taxation upon the public. He then examined the scheme in detail, and expressed his doubts whether it would either create such additional employment as Lord G. Bentinck anticipated, or whether it would occasion any diminution in the amount of the expenditure which we must incur for the relief of Ireland. He concluded by strongly urging upon the Irish landlords the importance of private enterprise and self-reliance.

Lord G. BENTINCK replied at very considerable length, contradicting and upsetting, as he said, every argument used by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his speech on Friday night.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL followed up Sir R. Peel's financial exposition. The exportation of food from England to Ireland cost the Imperial Treasury from £800,000 to £900,000 a month. The consequence had been that the price of food in Great Britain had been greatly enhanced. That high price of food was felt in the depression of the manufactures, by which a great bulk of our population was maintained. It was desirable not to make that pressure greater than the people of England could bear, lest they should be disabled from assisting their fellow-countrymen in Ireland altogether. In the last week, not less than 600,000 persons had received wages on the public works, representing 3,000,000 of persons dependent on them. 100,000 were now in the workhouses, maintained by the rates—and many thousands were now maintained by private charity in Ireland. When, then, more than 3,000,000 were living in this way, he had to consider whether the proposition of Lord G. Bentinck tended directly to the removal of

that distress, and he declared his deliberate opinion to be, that it would not be immediately efficient in the way in which Lord G. Bentinck had represented.

The division then took place.

Before the commencement of the debate, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER entered into an explanation to show that his information in regard to the portion of the whole outlay upon a railway which would be expended on earth-works was correct, and read paragraphs from letters which he had received from the gentleman whose opinions he had quoted the other evening, from which it appeared, that he had not fallen into a misconception as to the number of men who would be employed per mile upon the construction of a railway, and that the "anonymous individual" who had called upon Mr. D'Israeli, contradicting his statement, was not the party from whom he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had received his information. Mr. D'ISRAELI observed, that the mistake into which he had fallen had arisen from the practice of reading anonymous letters in the House.

NAVIGATION LAWS COMMITTEE.—Mr. RICARDO moved that the Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the Navigation Laws should be appointed as follows:—Mr. Ricardo, Sir R. Peel, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Alderman Thompson, Mr. Villiers, Sir H. Douglas, Admiral Dundas, Mr. Lyall, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. T. Baring, Mr. Hume, Mr. Liddell, Mr. Bright, Sir G. Clerk, and Mr. M. Gibson. Agreed to.

SHIPS OF WAR AND THE SCARCITY.—Mr. S. CRAWFORD gave notice that, on the motion for going into committee on the navy estimates, he should move an address to her Majesty, praying that she would be graciously pleased to authorize the employment of as many ships of her Majesty's navy as could be spared from regular duty, and under such regulations as might be deemed advisable, in the conveyance of provisions to the ports of the United Kingdom.

In the House of Lords, last night, the Brewing from Sugar Bill was read a second time, the committee to be on Friday; and the Destitute Persons (Ireland) Bill went through committee. There was also some conversation on the diminution that had taken place of the influx of Irish paupers into Manchester, and on the subject of the Castlebar workhouse.

Lord RADNOR has adopted a protest against the "Bill for the Temporary Relief of Destitute Persons in Ireland," mainly on the ground that it is a violation of the first principles of Government, and is likely to be productive of much future mischief.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has convoked the General Diet in Berlin, for the 11th of April.

THE RUSSIAN PORTS.—The Paris papers copy from the German papers a full refutation of the report that the Emperor of Russia had prohibited the export of grain from his dominions.—*Times*. [Is this to be believed in preference to the official information of the fact, said by the *Times*, to have been received? The *Morning Chronicle* says that no accounts of the event have been yet received at the Russian Consulate.]

THE MONTPENSIER DISPUTE.—The French Deputies have not been able, after all, to let the Montpensier affair pass without a wordy debate. The motives to the debate were purely factious. A taunt by a Ministerial speaker, on the silence of the Opposition, offered an opportunity for having a fling at the Minister; and M. Thiers could not resist the temptation of using the arms furnished for him by the conduct of M. Guizot and the lucubrations of English writers, diplomatic and literary. M. Thiers approved of the match—it would not have been French to do otherwise; but "showed up" the mode of bringing it about as heartily as Lord Palmerston himself could have done had he for the nonce been a Deputy. M. Guizot's reply was the worst blow to himself that he has yet received. He tried to make out—for Parisian auditors—that France had outwitted England; for English readers, that England had nothing to fear, as she has all along been gaining upon France in "the French lake,"—a name for the Mediterranean which M. Guizot emphatically disclaimed. As to his own personal character, he earnestly assured the Chamber that he had throughout told the truth—as far as it was consistent with cunning and convenience. Alas for French dignity! In England we should consider such confessions not merely below par as political morality, but as derogatory to the private character of a "gentleman;" with us they would not only render a Minister's seat very precarious, but would cause him to be avoided in society. Amid all the disputations, it is interesting to observe the strength with which the peace spirit has set in after the war mania: it is too strong for any Minister to defy, and all leading men defer to it.—*Spectator*. [During the past week Paris has been agitated with rumours as to the intentions of the English Cabinet, and the probable resignation of M. Guizot. The last report is, that a Cabinet Council was sitting to consider Lord Normanby's proposal to withdraw from Paris, in consequence of the false accusations of M. Guizot.]

EDINBURGH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Monday Evening.

The famine panic has abated considerably within the last fortnight in the large towns, and markets have still a tendency downwards, although the first step in that direction was the most decided. In well-informed circles the real destitution in the Highlands and Islands is believed to be greatly on the increase, and persons in communication with many of the pastors, elders, and deacons of the various churches believe that this awful state of things must go on till after the next harvest, notwithstanding the large, though not, apparently, growing liberality of those who have, and to spare.

The leaders of the Free Church are, after all, likely

to "give in" on the question of slavery and "communion with slaveholders." Already has Dr. Candlish agreed to and, I believe, asked a conference with the Committee of the Free Church Anti-slavery Society, which is to take place on Wednesday evening—his only condition being, "Don't ask us to send back the money."

The Committee are likely to be divided on this concession; but if the leaders of the Free Church agree to cut the fellowship of slaveholders in all circumstances, their late brethren across the water may safely be left to look after the money, understanding, as they do, the *quid pro quo* as well as any people under heaven. The lectures and countenance this Society has received from various members of the other denominations, may have had some share in producing this change; but the threatened solemn league and covenant against the late "sustentation," now "pastoral fund," until the money was sent back, had doubtless its full share and weight in the matter. But, from whatever motives, which will not be narrowly scanned, the cry of every friend of the slave is, Oh, that they would do it!

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—The Society's lecturer (John Kingsley, Esq., B.A.), who has just returned from a successful tour in South Wales, has been invited to visit Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, for the purpose of advocating the claims of the Society, and commenced his labours last night (Tuesday), at Kettering. We understand that he proceeds thence to Wellingborough, Thrapstone, Barton, Clipstone, Market Harborough, and Daventry, at each of which places arrangements have been made for his reception by some of the leading ministers of the districts. Northampton, Oundle, Newport Pagnell, and other towns, would do well to secure his services now that he is in the neighbourhood.

BEQUEST TO THE BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—A much-respected lady, who died a few days ago at Kettering, left by her will a legacy of five pounds to the British Anti-state-church Association. As probably connected with this fact, we may remind our readers that, a short time ago, some twenty or thirty respectable Dissenters in that town were most shamefully plundered, by the Church police, of furniture, bibles, prayer and hymn books, and other articles, to the amount of £54 16s. 4d., for church-rates of £8 7s. 2½d.!

THE NEW HOUSE OF LORDS.—We understand that Mr. Barry has intimated to the Marquis of Lansdowne that the House of Lords will be completed for the reception of their lordships after the Easter recess, with the exception of the fresco paintings and the statues in the niches. The new House of Commons is not expected to be ready for some time.—*Standard*.

THE SMITHFIELD NUISANCE.—On Monday afternoon, as two oxen were driven from Smithfield towards Bayswater-road, one of them, being struck, turned and attacked the drover. The second ox turned and gored the flanks of the first, which gave the drover a chance to extricate himself, leaving the animals to continue their combat. Before they could be parted a cab was overturned, and several persons were injured.—*Globe*.

CONVERSION TO THE CHURCH OF ROME.—We have to announce the conversion of another clergyman of the Establishment to the Roman Catholic Church, in the person of the Rev. Edward Caswall, M.A., of Brasenose College, Oxford, who made his profession of faith at Rome, about three weeks ago, according to letters received from that city. Mr. Caswall's brother, a member of Cambridge University, was received into the Roman Catholic Church a few months back.—*Morning Post*.

STATE OF THE NORTH OF SCOTLAND.—Since our last we are happy to state that no further disturbance has occurred in Inverness. No grain, however, has been shipped; and the Morayshire sailed on Friday night without having completed her loading. To be prepared for any emergency that might occur, the magistrates on Thursday swore in upwards of two hundred special constables, but their services have not been required. Over the north generally quietness has been restored. This has been accomplished, in the majority of instances, by assurances being given to the people that meal will be placed, in ample quantities, within their reach, at fair prices.

The tide yesterday was higher than on any previous occasion since the 31st of December, 1845.

GALWAY ELECTION.—The poll commenced on Saturday, and at the close for the day the Sheriff announced that Mr. Monahan, the Solicitor-general, had a majority of fourteen, the total number polled, so far, being nearly six hundred, or about half the constituency. The repeal candidate (Captain O'Flaherty), it will be recollected, is supported by the combined force of Old and Young Ireland.

BISHOP PHILPOTTS AND THE "WESTERN TIMES."—THE QUEEN AT THE PROSECUTION OF BISHOP PHILPOTTS AGAINST THOMAS LATIMER, LABOURER.—A report having been industriously circulated in Exeter, that this case is compromised, we have to state that there is no foundation whatever for the rumour. The case is fixed for trial by a special jury at the City Assizes, the Bishop, as our readers will remember, having caused it to be intimated to the Court of Queen's Bench that he could not trust his case to the hands of a common jury.—*Western Times*.

A CABINET COUNCIL was held yesterday morning, at twelve o'clock.

The late Mr. Byng's estate has been valued, for probate duty, at £400,000.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English	1210	970	660			1150
Scotch						
Irish			1590			
Foreign						

No alteration in price.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.

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For every additional Two Lines 6d.

Half a Column . . £1 | Column £2

* * All communications to the Editor should be addressed to the office, 3, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The communications received from Manchester and Oxford shall be attended to.

"W. Hart." The facts to which he testified do not upset the statement, copied from a contemporary, which appeared in our last number.

"C. W." Under consideration.

"A Noncon." Is obedience to the civil magistrate in matters of religion, either his "due," "custom," "fear," or "honour"?

"Philo." Declined.

"F. Pickering." We must leave common sense to judge. We dare not answer the question, lest we be pounced on again.

"J. L. M." We cannot always select such topics as we please—we must of necessity be guided in part by the state of public business. Otherwise we might have adopted our correspondent's suggestion.

W. Kinnersley confounds the notions of a true church, and the real religion which may be found in a false one.

An unknown correspondent who sends the notice of a marriage at Nareth, will, next time he writes, be more likely to prove "that a warmer friend to the *Nonconformist* does not exist" than himself (as he professes) by giving his name and paying the postage of the letter.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 1847.

SUMMARY.

WE were not mistaken in our conjecture thrown out last week, that Lord George Bentinck's railway scheme for Ireland would acquire sufficient popularity in Parliament to trouble the repose of Ministers. In truth, the noble Protectionist has displayed superior statesmanship, or rather jockeyship, to his noble friend on the opposite side of the House. His project is a simple one,—bold, plausible, captivating to the imagination, and calculated to make a strong appeal to generosity of heart. It is thoroughly wrought out in all its details, and the facts and figures by which it is recommended have been carefully collected, sifted, and classified. Lord George knows what will tell most with a British House of Commons, and he has most completely adapted himself to the temper and habits of the gentlemen upon whom he seeks to produce an impression. Nor has he left his chances to be decided merely by the power of his rhetoric. He has scoured the Continent for votes. He has at his back no contemptible number of well-trained and organized supporters, some of whom, moreover, are deeply interested in the introduction, as they modestly call it, of capital into Ireland. No wonder, therefore, that the Cabinet took alarm, and, gathering a meeting of English and Irish supporters, threatened resignation, if Lord George's bill was carried. The consequence was curious. There were then measures of relief pending before the House of Commons, which Irish landlords could not safely dispense with. It was indispensable that these should be safe before the Ministry should be endangered. The Irish party, consequently, besought the Protectionist leader to postpone the second reading of the railway bill for about a fortnight. To this request the noble lord could not give an unqualified assent, for absentee proprietors, and other gentlemen, who had hastened from Naples, Rome, and Paris, from purely patriotic motives, to take part in the debate, or at least in the voting which followed it, were, of course, anxious to be off again as soon as possible. Lord George was embarrassed; and perhaps nothing but a challenge from Lord John Russell, to come to the encounter without loss of time, would have prevailed upon his lordship to give the signal for battle.

The discussion on this question has now been twice adjourned. The termination of it may perhaps be announced in our "Postscript." It was opened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a speech which, at first sight, seemed conclusive of the whole question. There was about it a tone of light railery—an artistic arrangement of topics—a ready reference to facts, based, however, upon somewhat slender authorities—and a dashing style of oratory, which told not only upon the House but upon the country. The project appeared to be thoroughly knocked on the head; and two ex-Chancellors of the Exchequer came forth to give it its final *quietus*. The speakers on the other side of the question seemed to be panic-stricken, and could only re-produce old assertions, backed by a passionate entreaty to give liberally to Ireland. D'Israeli redeemed the chances of the day. He showed himself more than a match for all who had hitherto spoken against the project. His speech was in his happiest style—satirical, but devoid of bitterness—philosophically constructed, but thoroughly sustained by reasoning and facts—less poetical in its imagery than usual, but far more solid and consistent in its argument. At the conclusion of his speech, the debate was again adjourned, and will probably end in a division giving a large majority to Ministers.

Two or three other questions of importance have been brought before the House of Commons during the week. Of these, Mr. Fielden's Ten Hours Bill occupied the first place—a bill, as it appears to us, to

abstract from factory operatives a sixth of their capital. The discussion on the second reading of it brought out no great novelty of argument. The chief interest attaching to it—apart, we mean, from the intrinsic importance of the measure—was to be found in the fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is responsible for the finances of the country, condemned as ruinous what the First Lord of the Treasury and the Home Secretary accepted as safe and beneficial. Lord John Russell, for no reason that we can discover, unless it were the hope of damaging Mr. Bright's prospects at Manchester, fell foul of the honourable member for Durham, for want of courtesy in having postponed, until near the close of the debate, an attack on Ministers, which should have been made at the commencement of it. A more childish, uncalled-for, and unreasonable complaint, we never remember a leader of the House of Commons to have preferred against a private member. The discussion was adjourned, to be resumed, we suppose, at twelve o'clock this day. The second reading of the bill will, doubtless, be carried, and, in committee, eleven hours substituted for ten as the limitation of factory labour.

A bill for the regulation of railway enterprise has been submitted to Parliament by Mr. Strutt, and has gained the approbation of almost all parties. The provisions recommended by the President of the Railway Board affect, first, the introduction of railway bills into Parliament, and, secondly, the accommodation to be furnished by companies to the public. The principal heads of the proposed measure will be found set forth in our Parliamentary intelligence. They are drawn up with evident care; they discover honesty of purpose; and, when passed into law, they will probably simplify, to a great extent, Parliamentary railway business, as well as secure for the public increased advantages in travelling.

The relations of landlord and tenant in Ireland have been brought before the House by Mr. W. Sharman Crawford—known to be one of the best landlords resident in the sister isle. His speech, which was introductory of a resolution intended, we suppose, to be the basis of a bill, was clear, able, manly, and suggestive of sound principles, in relation to the matter in hand. Mr. Labouchere, on the part of Government, took exception to the shape in which the question had been brought forward. Discussion, consequently, was evaded, and the member for Rochdale withdrew his motion, with an intimation that he would bring it forward, at a later period, in the form of a bill. The Ministers have promised a measure of their own on the same subject, and Mr. Pusey has obtained leave to bring in a bill for establishing a "tenant-right" in England, which meets with the thorough approbation of the tenant-farmers.

The House of Lords, until Monday last, has been left almost without occupation. The Irish Relief Bill, which was then read a second time, gave rise to a short, but animated, discussion. The speech of Lord Stanley deserves perusal. The greater part of it was on a subject not then before the House—the introduction of the Poor-law into Ireland. It seems that upon this head his lordship and the Ministry are not far apart, and, in our judgment, the scruples of both, founded upon whatever considerations, are weighty and sound. We reserve, however, further remarks upon the question until the Ministerial measure is fairly before the country.

We regret to observe amongst continental states a disposition to allay the alarm created by the prevailing scarcity, by the unwise expedient of prohibiting the exportation of provisions. Such has been the policy adopted by Belgium, Naples, Rome, and we are sorry to add Russia. The decision of the latter very seriously concerns ourselves. Immense supplies of grain collected in the ports of the Black Sea, Odessa especially, which have been brought down from the interior at a great cost for exportation to Western Europe, will by this arbitrary edict of the Czar become comparatively valueless to the Russian merchants, and are not, according to all accounts, required by reason of scarcity at home. Can it be that Nicholas endeavours thus to take revenge on Western Europe for their somewhat unceremonious denunciation of his treatment of Poland and Cracow? Whatever may be his motive, it is hard to say whether the consequences will fall most heavily on his own subjects, or upon France and England, who are eagerly purchasing the surplus produce of Southern Russia. Doubtless, the autocrat rates each of the suffering parties at the same value.

The foreign intelligence of the week, with the exception of that elsewhere adverted to, is neither specially interesting nor important.

DESPOTISM THINLY VEILED.

"Save me from my friends—I'll look after my foes."

THE Whigs who, under Walpole, first resorted to the system of corrupting public men by ascertaining the price at which they were to be bought, and paying it—the Whigs who loosened the bonds of responsibility between representatives and constituencies by thrusting the Septennial Act upon the nation—the Whigs who avowedly framed their Reform bill to give a preponderance in the Legislature to the landed interest, and who resisted the League, until further resistance endangered the aristocratic order—the Whigs who artfully silenced the ablest advocates of popular claims by municipal honours, and undermined the independence of the press by appropriate largesses, and debased town constituencies by profligate expenditure—the Whigs whom Dissenters have usually trusted only to be deceived and

despised, and who have done more than any other political party to strengthen the hands of the Church Establishment—the Whigs are about to sign, seal, and ratify their claims upon Dissenting confidence and gratitude by putting in force, without the formality of asking Parliamentary leave, a plan of supplementary education which, in its obvious adaptation to ruin voluntary effort, to bring State influence to bear upon teachers and taught, and to play into the hands of the Established clergy, outvies the educational clauses of Sir James Graham's Factories bill, and differs from that rejected measure, only in compassing the same end more securely, more unconstitutionally, and by processes better fitted to corrupt, pervert, and debase, the rising mind of the country.

A more arbitrary, a more thoroughly autocratic proceeding than that by which the present Government proposes to reconstruct the whole educational machinery of these realms, it is difficult to imagine. A sort of sub-committee selected from the Privy Council, and originally appointed to superintend the distribution of a few thousand pounds annually in aid of popular education, concoct a scheme which, besides involving immense expenditure, will bring about the substitution, over the whole kingdom, of State influence for independent control, in the management of schools—and they resolve upon carrying it into effect without allowing the Legislature to pronounce an opinion upon its principle or its details. "Give us," say they to the House of Commons, "not advice—we do not ask it, do not want it, will not have it—but money to lay out on educational objects. We will dispense the patronage—we will prescribe terms—we will select the channels in which public bounty shall run—and we will, of our own good pleasure, transfer the instruction of the masses to those who have so long clamoured for it in vain—the clergy of the Established Church." Why not, we ask, embody the Minutes of Council in a Parliamentary bill? Who constituted these gentlemen High Commissioners of Education, with powers as ample and absolute as any exercised by the Poor-law Commissioners at Somerset-house? Who vested them with authority to act in so delicate an affair, independently altogether of the people's will and consent? Into what other departments of administration is this legislative irresponsibility to be introduced? The Tories! Why they, identified in many minds with all that is despotic in theory and in practice, would never have ventured upon so bold and impudent an infraction of constitutional principle. The most insidious, the most sectarian, the most offensively meddling, of all measures hitherto proposed for managing the education of the people, the Whigs intend to constitute law on their own authority, because they dare not submit it to Parliamentary investigation, discussion, and approval.

Then look at the sectarian bias which these provisions discover. The money voted by Parliament, it is true, is nominally available for either of the great educational societies—the National and the British—Church and Dissent. In appearance, and on paper, all this is equitable enough. But what is it in fact? Churchmen have no objection, on principle, to State interference with education—many of the Dissenters have. Churchmen are allowed a veto upon the appointment of inspectors—Dissenters are not. Churchmen, consisting, in the main, of the nobles, gentry, and monied classes of the land, can always, at a very trifling sacrifice, raise large sums, entitling them to proportionate State gratuities—Dissenters, found chiefly among the middle classes, and those not of the highest grade, can ill afford to compete with their rivals in the amount of their subscriptions. Amongst Churchmen there is every facility, every inducement, to put their schools in connexion with Government agency—among Dissenters not a few powerful causes are operative in compelling them to stand aloof. The consequence is, that, even now, seven-eighths of the public money voted for educational purposes are received by Churchmen, the remaining eighth only being appropriated to Dissenters; and the first proportion is expended in giving avowedly sectarian instruction—the last, in aiding educational effort, conducted apart from denominational restrictions. Such is the result at the present moment. We have no hesitation in expressing our conviction that the new scheme will increase the disproportion between the two classes of schools a hundredfold; and that schools, managed by the clergy, inspected by the clergy, and turned to account by the clergy, for their own ecclesiastical purposes, will absorb at least ninety-five per cent. of all the funds voted by the House of Commons for the education of the poor.

The scheme, in fact, resolves itself into a supplementary Church Establishment, adapted to lay hold upon the labouring population, and to bring the masses under clerical control. Schoolmasters, acting under the guidance of, and in concert with, the state-paid clergy—apprentices and stipendiary monitors trained up in the spirit of ecclesiasticism, and dependent for success upon clerical recommendations—scholars enticed from other establishments by special advantages, and receiving all kinds of instruction well seasoned with Church-of-England principles, and catechism—will this, or will this not, be the actual product of the Ministerial scheme? It cannot be necessary to pause for a reply. It will—unless human nature become miraculously changed, it will. Thousands of state-church emissaries, bigoted in proportion to their narrowness of sphere, are to be quartered upon the Consolidated Fund. A numerous army of functionaries, commissioned to preach high-church doctrines, is to be raised and equipped forthwith, at

the public cost, in aid of an institution which, whatever its merits, has uniformly enervated and corrupted religion, and obstructed the growth of popular intelligence and liberty. Is this tremendous innovation to be allowed? The Whigs say, they will not stoop even to ask your assent. They must, however, ask your money—and that, year by year. We may raise a preliminary discussion even this session—and under the influence of that discussion may go to a general election, to read statesmen who sham liberal principles, and resort to despotic practices, a lesson of humiliation and rebuke such as none of them will forget.

THE IRISH RAILROAD DEBATE.

To give them their due, the Protectionists have acquitted themselves very creditably, since the opening of the session. They have propounded a plan of policy which is at once definite and comprehensive—they have mastered its details—they have collected a good stock of evidence—they have abstained from factious opposition—and they have infused into their rivalry to Government a tone of moderation and courtesy which might be imitated by others without disadvantage. On Monday night, the member for Shrewsbury, squire to Lord George, supported the knight-errant of landlordism, by a most able, telling, and trenchant speech. Whatever may be said of the merits of the cause he has espoused, it is certain that he drove his competitors out of the field, in as far as facts and reasoning are concerned. "The late, later, and latest Chancellors of the Exchequer" were chased round and round the ring, and deprived, one by one, of their most effective weapons. The number of able-bodied men required for the construction of 1,200 miles of railway—the kind of men who may be, and are, employed in such undertakings—the proportion of railway capital spent in earth-works—the possibility of raising a loan without deranging the money-market—on all these points Mr. D'Israeli brought an array of facts, figures, and authorities, which, for the time, at least, has put his antagonists *hors de combat*. At present, the Whigs, either through want of care or preparation, are driven to the shady side of the argument—and had the House gone to a vote on Monday night, founding its judgment upon such knowledge only as the debate has upturned, there can be little doubt that it would have been justified in affirming Lord George Bentinck's proposition.

The real weakness of Lord George's cause is its apparently overwhelming strength. If it be what he represents it, how is it that it cannot attract towards itself private capital? Why do monied men, always on the look-out for safe and profitable investments, look shy upon it? Talk about the unsettled state of Ireland as accounting for their hesitation! Why, when was Mexico at rest? or when did South America guarantee political security for speculators? and yet capital in immense masses floated over to those distant regions. The secret is, that no man looks upon railway property as likely to be remunerative in countries which have few of the products of labour to exchange. Where millions live on the food which each procures by about two months' labour on a few roods of soil, there can be little need of intercommunication. What can be carried on Irish railways? the social condition of the people remaining what it has been. Not passengers—for the bulk of the inhabitants are almost unacquainted with money. Not manufactures—for there are next to none in Ireland. Not merchandise—nor even produce to any great extent. All these, it may be replied, railways will gradually create. Doubtless; but, meanwhile, who is to pay the interest of the £16,000,000 loan? And whence is to come the increase of food which the construction of between one and two thousand miles of railway, during the next four years, will demand? The money, however, we admit, would be a small sum to pay down for the social regeneration of Ireland. But the Protectionists have failed to show by what process it would accomplish this, or how, if it failed to accomplish it, the immense advance could be repaid. The only classes who can be proved likely to derive permanent advantage from the measure, are Irish landlords, and railway stages.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

OUR advertising columns have recently contained several pathetic and urgent appeals for assistance to the starving people of the sister-isle. People in this country can scarcely credit the accounts which, from time to time, are furnished, by the public prints, of the awful progress of famine and fever in the south and south-western districts of that country. We take the opportunity, therefore, of introducing to our readers a most graphic, but affecting description of the condition of Tralee, written by an Englishman, poor and uneducated, but conscientious, honest, and observing. We give it simply as an unvarnished narrative of facts passing under the eye of the writer. "All things," he says, "are at a stand. All people are looking for food; those from the country, such as are able, flocking from all parts to the towns to buy something to eat. Poor men falling down dead at their work. The workhouse shut against them, there being 1,200 inmates in all. The hospitals full; two hundred in the Fever Hospital; and this town only about the size of Bungay. All pawn-shops full and shut up. Men, women, and children, in numbers, begging from door to door in tones that would melt a heart of stone. Dead bodies going and coming in all directions. Scarce a house without

one dead, or sick, and some with five or six lying sick of fever at the same time. Clergymen, of all creeds, running from house to house preparing the dying people. All business suspended, except that of bakers, coffin-makers, and the graveyard—the last so full that they bury them one upon the other, and often without coffins; and the bodies of such as die at the hospitals their friends frequently will not take away. Things are so that we cannot call one minute our own."

We are sure that this heart-rending statement will quicken in many of our readers the pulse of their liberality; and, in this case, emphatically, it is to be remembered, that he gives twice who gives quickly.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE "great difficulty" which, as it has long been predicted, would arise from the war with Mexico, is now assuming an importance which is full of perplexity to the statesmen of America. The tide of conquest will be followed by the annexation of no small portion of the conquered territory. What is to be the constitution of the newly-formed states? Is slavery to be introduced as "a domestic institution," and an overwhelming preponderance given to southern influence in the general legislature? or are a number of "free states" to be created, and thus turn the scale in favour of the north? These are just now felt to be grave questions in the United States—far more serious in their ultimate bearings than the question of war or peace with Mexico. In spite of the vetoes of Congress, the opposition of the press, and the violent prejudices of the public, the slavery question will force itself into prominent discussion. The northern states must take their ground on it, or succumb to the south. The conflict would seem to be near at hand, which will result in a dissolution of the Union, or at least give an incalculable impetus to the anti-slavery cause.

As far as appearances go, the free states are resolved to maintain the ground they have taken—that slavery shall not be introduced into any territory hereafter annexed to the union. In Congress the warfare has been severe and incessant, showing how deeply the hostile interests of the north and the south are involved in the struggle. The most important state legislatures of the north—such as New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Vermont—have each adopted decided resolutions, protesting against any extension of slavery. In fact, there is reason to hope that the irresistible tendency of events will make the free states as anti-slavery in principle as they are in constitution. They may, in truth, be said to be the bulwarks of the accursed system. Were they to separate from, or even discountenance slavery, it could not long exist. The task is an unenviable one, but they cannot evade it. It is the least of two evils. Future subserviency to the south, or a fatal assault on its chief "domestic institution," are the only alternatives open to them. Like the Conservative phalanx of 1841, they are called upon to give the death-blow to a system which they have long upheld and cherished in their midst. When duty fails to nerve them to the conflict, interest steps in to prevent their retreat.

Whilst such is the critical position of the two antagonistic elements of the American union, it becomes the friends of the anti-slavery cause in this country to ponder what they can do to influence the coming conflict, and help to bring it to a speedy issue. No one can deny, that the expression of public opinion in this country, on almost any subject of importance, has an untold influence on the other side of the Atlantic. And if the United States are sensitive upon one question more than another, it is on that of slavery. Let us strengthen the hands of American abolitionists. Let us act the part of the Anti-corn-law League towards America; and as they, by their persevering agitation, induced Sir R. Peel to carry into practice his abstract theories, let us, by mingling advice with encouragement, persuade the northern states to take that stand against slavery which their professed principles demand. To secure this object in the most simple and effectual way, no plan appears to us more suitable than the proposition lately put forward by the *People's Journal* for "A NATIONAL REMONSTRANCE AGAINST SLAVERY," to be addressed to the American people through their President, and signed by three millions of the English people, the estimated number of slaves in the United States. We have already done our best to recommend the plan, and shall be rejoiced to hear that it has been taken up with spirit and success by Anti-slavery Societies and individual friends of the cause throughout the country. It is impossible, in the present singular position of the question amongst our transatlantic brethren, to estimate the amount of influence such a protest would exert in the inevitable conflict between northern and southern supremacy. We owe it to the cause of humanity and religion, and especially to our abolitionist friends in America, to take some such decided step, not merely to promote the anti-slavery cause, but to vindicate that reputation which has been so grievously damaged by the conduct of the Free Church and Evangelical Alliance. We would submit to British Christians, whether, if the serious statements contained in the following extract from a letter by a minister of the Gospel in the United States, published in our last number, are true, they are not called upon, by all means in their power, to wash themselves clear of this ignominious reproach:—

"Until tidings of that dreadful calamity [the decision of the Evangelical Alliance on the subject of slavery] reached

our shores, there remained a faint flickering hope in many minds that our own 'American Board of Foreign Missions' would retrace its steps,—that the rising tone of Christian sentiment in both hemispheres would compel it to pause and consider. A firm stand *then*, in that 'Evangelical' convention, might have turned the tide, and American Evangelical Christianity might have been redeemed. But, with the fatal plunge of the Evangelical Convention, all hope of this seems to be blotted out. The leaders of opposition to the anti-slavery movements, in all our American sects, and who hold the destinies of their several denominations in their hands, are conscious of a reinforcement now. They have been sustained in the very quarter from which they had anticipated a vigorous onset. The voice of the Evangelical Alliance is felt to be the voice of European Protestant Christianity, endorsing the Christianity of the slave-holder! What other construction can be placed upon the language? Henceforward there seems no hope of a successful rally on the part of a slavery-training Christianity in America, but to secede and re-organize new churches, that shall hold no affinity with the religion that thus fraternally embraces the slaveholder. To many of us, indeed, there was no other alternative long ago, but this new development has thrown thousands more upon the same ground."

UNEQUAL LEGISLATION.

IRELAND v. SCOTLAND.

(From the *Edinburgh Chronicle*.)

In the year 1782 there was a famine of native produce in Scotland. The crops were nearly all destroyed in the nine northern counties. In the extremity of their distress the people appealed to the proprietors, and the proprietors generously responded to the appeal. The distress was thus relieved, and since that period there has neither been famine nor pestilence in seven out of the nine counties then afflicted. . . . Then came an appeal to Government. And what did Government do in the matter? How did it acknowledge the spontaneous and unprecedented liberality of the Scottish landlords? You shall hear; but tell it not in Conciliation-hall, publish it not in the British House of Commons. The Government recommended that Parliament should assess the property of the proprietors for the relief of their tenantry in distress; and Parliament passed an act to enable the Commissioners of Supply of the several distressed counties "to assess and levy upon all and every, the heritors and landholders, within their respective shires, a sum of money not exceeding fourteen pounds Scots of every hundred pounds Scots of valued rent of the said counties," and "to apply the moneys arising by virtue of this assessment in relieving such of the inhabitants of the said respective shires as have been reduced to indigence by the failure of last year's crop, and in such way and manner as the said commissioners in their judgment and discretion shall think fit." And also enact, to "permit the importation of foreign corn, duty free, for four months," in "any ship or vessel belonging to any State in amity with his Majesty, navigated by foreign seamen."

Why has this precedent been overlooked on the present occasion? If the Scotch proprietors were thus dealt with in 1782-3, in common fairness the Irish proprietors should be similarly dealt with in 1847. There is nothing in the history of the dealings of Parliament with the Scotch famine in 1782, which does not warrant them dealing after the same mode with the Irish famine in 1847. The Scotch proprietors, who were compelled to assess themselves, were almost all in difficulties and in debt. Their estates were entailed, and they were, in pocket money, generally as poor as kirk mice, yet they were not spared. If mortgagees derived a good per-centage for their advances, they could afford to part with some of their returns; and those advances formed no question of consideration of relief in the Government. The Irish estates may be mortgaged to the extent of £10,000,000 out of the £13,000,000 annual valued rent; but that is no reason why the present Government should spare the proprietors. Yet such is the fact, they are not only spared, but get a bonus for pauperism out of the hard-earned earnings of England. Truly John Bull is a generous animal! In the words of the *Times*, "Between the exactions of plausible mendicancy and an extortionate revenue, nothing is left but to tax English labour for uncounted years to come, and to pay Ireland three times over the fee simple to gratify the prayer of her gentler, and the demands of her noisier delegates; property worth £13,000,000 a year is to be let off, comparatively scot free, between the juggles of mortgages, leases, and creditors, and then, after all, to be abused and reviled for not doing instantly that which he sees no reason but his own good-nature for doing at all."

THE GOVERNMENT PLAN OF EDUCATION.

The *Leeds Mercury* of Saturday contains a letter from Mr. Edward Baines, jun., to the Marquis of Lansdowne, analyzing and showing the probable results of the adoption of the scheme lately propounded by the President of the Council in the House of Lords. Mr. Baines, we are glad to find, takes the same view as ourselves of the insidious measure:—

What they [the gentlemen forming the staff of the Committee of Education] failed to accomplish by direct authority, they are now attempting by a subtler and surer method. Large appropriations of public money are promised, to lure all the schools in the country into the acceptance of Government inspection and control, and to put at a fatal disadvantage the schools of those who adhere to the old English system of free and voluntary education! A new establishment, not merely educational, but distinctly religious, is to be formed, and those who disapprove of religious establishments are to be compelled to support it!

Before examining the scheme the writer gives a short summary of the state of education, and what has been done of late years for its extension. In 1833 the number of Infant and Day-schools was 1,276,947; of Sunday-schools, 1,548,890; or in the former case, double, and in the latter, treble the number educated in 1818—a period of fifteen years, during which not a single grant of public money for schools ever took place. The following are the additions made from 1833 to 1846:—

From 1833 to 1846.	
Day Schools for the Working class, say . . .	600,000
Ditto Upper and Middle classes . . .	200,000
Total	800,000

To the schools built since 1833 for the working classes Government contributed £395,000, out of about £2,000,000 expended on those schools. But the increase in the period from 1833 to 1846 was not equal to the increase from 1818 to 1833. Let us suppose that, with an increased accommodation for 800,000 since 1833, we have realized an increased attendance of only 600,000 (and surely this will be below the mark). Then add that to the ascertained attendance of 1833, and we have a total of 1,876,947.

Day scholars in 1833 1,276,947
Added since (accommodation 800,000) 600,000

Total of scholars in 1846 1,876,947

Such, then, has been the increase within the last twenty-eight years:—

	Day Scholars.
In 1818	674,883
In 1833	1,276,947
In 1846	1,876,947

Is not this a rate of progress in the highest degree satisfactory? Are we not rapidly overtaking the wants of the population? To allow all the children in the country to receive an education of five years on the average, there should be 1,945,111 children found in school (the whole number of the population from five to fifteen years of age being 3,890,223); and if we have an attendance of 1,867,947, we cannot be very greatly deficient. There may be great inequalities; but if the bulk of the people have been sufficiently supplied with schools by voluntary means, we may be sure that the rest will be supplied by the same means: and if we should even suppose a great deficiency still to exist, the rate of progress shown to have taken place since 1818 proves that that deficiency will speedily be supplied.

Upwards of £3,000,000 sterling has been expended in the erection of schools since 1818.

To my mind these great facts give an unwavering confidence in the power and willingness of the people to educate themselves, without Government interference.

Mr. Baines then shows that, at the present time, there are normal schools in existence, containing 900 students, with accommodation for about 1,110. In addition to which the excellent training school at Glasgow furnishes many teachers to English schools; the British and Foreign School Society has projected four new normal schools in populous districts; and the Wesleyans contemplate the establishment of a training institution.

When to the above facts I add the splendid effort making by the Free Church of Scotland to build 700 or 800 schools; the subscriptions raising for schools both by the Church and the Dissenters in Wales; the schools established and the educational boards in operation among the Congregationalists and the Wesleyans; the county educational associations formed in Essex, West Kent, Cambridgeshire, Devonshire, and Pembrokeshire; the thirty ragged schools of London, with 3,000 scholars, and the ragged schools formed in Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Aberdeen, and other places; the project of thirty infant schools in Birmingham; the Rev. Mr. Burgess's project of fifty schools in a part of the metropolis; and Mr. Baxter's proposal for Church schools in Yorkshire—to which, doubtless, might be added many more unknown to me, as well as the formation of mechanics' institutions, atheneums, libraries, youths' guardian societies, &c., over the whole kingdom—I appeal to your lordship if there is not an effective zeal manifested in the cause of education, worthy of the reliance of an enlightened statesman.

Such are some of the facts proving how unnecessary is the interference of the Government.

Mr. Baines then enters upon an examination of the ministerial scheme, the fatal provisions of which are developed not so much in Lord Lansdowne's speech as in the minutes of the Committee of Council on education. He offers the following estimate of the number of schools and school-officers likely to come under its influence, premising that the minutes of Council give no estimate of the probable expense, and that for the first year the burden will be comparatively light:—

We may perhaps assume that 15,000 schools and schoolmasters will ultimately come under the inspection and benevolence of the Government: for the tendency of grants and pensions will be to set all schoolmasters, school-trustees, &c., to work, at once to put themselves into the enviable position of having a claim on the exchequer. Dr. Hook estimated that there would be 16,825 schools put upon the public funds. The National Society has already, I believe, about 9,000 day-schools. To reckon on 15,000 schools, with 100 children each, or 1,500,000 in the whole, then seems to me a moderate computation. I confine myself to England and Wales. If Scotland should be included, the number would be much greater.

We may suppose that for each school containing 100 children there will be two pupil-teachers and two stipendiary monitors: for it will be the interest of the schoolmaster to have the greatest number possible, as he is to receive gratuities in proportion to the number. The minutes of Council say, that there may be pupil-teachers not exceeding one to every twenty-five scholars.

We may also suppose that Dr. Hook is right in estimating that a fresh supply of 1,000 schoolmasters and 500 schoolmistresses will be required each year, for the 15,000 schools. And as they are to be three years in the Normal Schools, those schools should at all times contain 4,500 persons in course of training.

Mr. Baines gives the following rough estimate of the expense of working this apparently modest scheme:—

SUPPOSED ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.	£
1. Grants to normal schools, for 1,000 male students admitted each year, on the average £22 10s. for each	22,500
Ditto for 500 female students, at two-thirds the amount per head	7,500
2. Grants in aid of the salaries of schoolmasters, 15,000, at £20 each	300,000
3. Grants to schoolmasters for training pupil-teachers and stipendiary monitors: 30,000 pupil-teachers, at £9 for two	135,000
30,000 stipendiary monitors, at £4 for two	60,000
4. Salaries of pupil-teachers and stipendiary monitors—30,000 pupil-teachers, at £15 each	450,000
30,000 stipendiary monitors, at £10 each	300,000
5. Grants to students in normal schools—3,000 male students, at £25 each	75,000
1,500 female ditto, at £16 13s. 4d. each	25,000
6. Gratuities to schoolmasters for skill in training pupil-teachers and stipendiary monitors—suppose 1,500 to receive yearly £5 each	7,500
7. School field-gardens—suppose 2,000, aided by grants of £5 each	10,000
Purchase of tools for first year—may average yearly	1,000
Gratuities to masters for teaching agriculture, say £10 each	20,000

8. Workshops for trades—suppose 1,000, aided by grants of (say) £5 each	5,000
Purchase of tools for first year—may average yearly	2,000
Gratuities to masters for teaching, at (say) £10 each	10,000
9. School kitchens and washhouses—suppose 2,000, at £5 each	10,000
Outfit, may average yearly	2,000
Gratuities to mistresses for teaching, at (say) £7 each	14,000
10. Superannuation pensions to schoolmasters—not to exceed two-thirds of salary and emoluments—suppose 1,500, at £50 each	75,000
11. Grants for workhouse schools, schools of industry, and penal schools—Parliamentary grant already made for salaries of schoolmasters	15,000
Annual charge of normal school for ditto	3,500
Other expenses (say)	15,000
12. Grants, as at present, for building school-houses, and also the building of workshops, kitchens, &c. (say)	100,000
13. Salaries and travelling expenses of Inspectors—suppose seventy-five, at £700 each	52,500
14. Expenses of the head office in London, clerks, &c. (say)	25,000

Total expenditure £1,742,500

Such is the best judgment I can form, from the materials furnished in the "Minutes of Council," of the probable expense to the State when the system shall come into full play some years hence. I may be far wrong. But when I know that Dr. Hook calculated the gross expenses of the schools at £2,541,571, and that part which was to come out of public funds at £1,141,571, and that Mr. Kay made a claim of £2,500,000 a year on behalf of education—when I look at the multifarious and novel sources of expenditure included in your plan—and when I consider the extreme ingenuity shown by all men in getting upon public funds whenever an opportunity offers, the proverbial expensiveness of all Government establishments, and the proverbial longevity of pensioners—I think the amount given here by no means an over-estimate.

And this vast amount of £1,742,500 a year, be it more or less, is proposed by your lordship to be levied yearly on the tax-payers of this country, for the sake of improving education certainly, but also for the sake of putting the education of the people into the hands of the Government! Surely, the friends of State education will "pay too dear for their whistle!" You create this enormous expenditure unnecessarily, at a time when the people are with unexampled rapidity extending and improving their own means of education. Assuredly you will leave behind you, when the present epidemic passion for State education shall have subsided, a reputation for extravagance not honourable to your characters as statesmen.

The probable amount of influence and patronage it will throw into the hands of Government:—

But the cost of the new school establishment, heavy as it will be, is not the most serious objection to your plan. I am not aware that a measure was ever proposed that would lead to so enormous an extension of Government patronage and influence. Every schoolmaster in the country, teaching a public school, will become an expectant of grants, gratuities, or a pension; and inasmuch as he will be unable to obtain it without the favourable report of the Government inspectors, he will lay himself out to win that favourable report. In the same way the pupil-teachers and stipendiary monitors will become dependent on the inspectors, whose report will make or mar their fortunes. But as Government appoints the inspectors, it will be the fountain-head of all the influence which they exert. Let us form a rough estimate of the number of persons who will, by your new plan, when fully carried out, be brought into dependence on the Government:—

Schoolmasters	15,000
Ditto, receiving pensions	1,500
Pupil teachers	30,000
Stipendiary monitors	30,000
Students in normal schools	4,500
Workhouse schoolmasters, &c.	1,000
Employed to assist in field gardens, workshops, washhouses, kitchens, &c., inspectors, clerks, &c. &c. (say)	6,000

Total 88,000

Thus 88,000 persons, and perhaps nearly 88,000 families, will become directly dependent on the Government, which, reckoning 4½ to the family, brings 396,000 persons under Government influence! But if these 88,000 are actually employed, it is needless to say that a far greater number must be in the position of aspirants to the various situations. Unless the people of England should have drunk the cup of oblivion as to all constitutional jealousy, they will surely arouse themselves at the prospect of this new army of Government functionaries. But if we are to imitate Prussia and France in our State education, we may well imitate them in their degrading and enslaving system of functionalism!

The effect of the proposed scheme as bearing upon the Church, Dissenters, and religious freedom:—

But, my lord, it can hardly have escaped your notice—I am sure it was perfectly known to the real concocters of the measure—that in this vast amount of patronage, though Government has the chief influence, yet the clergy are made to go partners with them. There can be no doubt that all the National Schools will sooner or later be put on the list of recipients of State-money. The parochial clergy are to attend and assist in every examination, and to give yearly certificates to the pupil-teachers and stipendiary monitors; the whole of the schoolmasters, pupil-teachers, and monitors in Church schools, will be dependent on the parochial clergy, nearly to the same extent as on the Government inspectors—dependent for their success in life, or their ruin. We shall shortly have ten or twelve thousand of the clergy exercising this new and vast influence in their respective parishes. My lord, I regard this not only as an unseemly, but as a most dangerous extension of ecclesiastical influence in the country—unfavourable in the highest degree to liberal principles, and to practical religious liberty. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London might well applaud your measure! Lord John Russell has abundantly redeemed the promise he is supposed to have made to the archbishop!

And whilst you thus load the Church with influence and patronage, what effect will your measure have on Dissenters and their schools? It professes impartiality. It offers help to all schools alike. But what will be its practical working? You know that those who consistently hold the Voluntary principle cannot receive any of the money which you so profusely scatter. You know this, because in your speech you alleged the scruples of the Voluntaries as one reason for not introducing an entire system of

Government Education. Then if Dissenters refuse the grants of money, see the cruel position in which they are placed. You lure away their schoolmasters, by your grants, gratuities, and pensions. You lure away their scholars, by the advantages of pupil-teachers, stipendiary monitors, Queen's scholars, appointments in the revenue departments, school-gardens, workshops, kitchens, and washhouses, in the Church schools. You lure their school-committees to desert their principles and accept your money. You lure their subscribers to give up their subscriptions, under pretence that Government grants ought to be accepted. You may look with composure on these undermining and sapping processes; but depend upon it, my lord, there are scores of thousands of Dissenters, hitherto favourable to your party, who will regard the measure, as I do, with the liveliest indignation.

Every Dissenter will see that this measure is erecting a new religious Establishment—a School Establishment appended to the Church Establishment. It is not a measure for secular education,—but distinctly a measure for religious education, and, in all Church schools, for education in the principles of the Church of England, to which you will compel the Dissenter to pay, as you now compel him to pay tithes and church-rates.

Why should the Wesleyan, the Independent, the Baptist, the Quaker, and every other Nonconformist, be forced by a new law to pay for the teaching of doctrines which they do not believe, and the upholding of a system which they regard as unscriptural?

As the Church are in general the richer class, and the Dissenters the poorer, your measure is one of aggravated cruelty to the latter. Knowing as you do that they cannot accept of grants for their own schools, you will compel them to pay taxes for the support of Church schools;—that is, you compel the poorer section to support the schools and religious teaching of the richer section,—whilst those poorer communities are struggling to support their own schools, which you are about to undermine and destroy!

The mode of treating Dissenters in your lordship's plan is peculiar. Their ministers are never mentioned or alluded to,—which I think right; but it serves to show most strikingly the favour and honour done to the Established Church, whose clergy are recognized at every step as ecclesiastical authorities, to be invested with important powers in the schools. The teaching of religion is enforced in the Church schools, and its particular nature defined: in other schools it is not enforced, or even recognized, and all that is said on the subject is, that "the managers" are to certify "the religious knowledge" of the candidates for pupil-teachers, and also "that the pupil-teachers and stipendiary monitors have been attentive to their religious duties." Religion, then, is expected,—of what kind you take no notice: all alike will receive public money: you will support the schools of every sect, and of course the religious teaching of every sect in those schools; or you will support the schools without any religious teaching.

This is a curious combination of ecclesiastical partiality, civil justice, and a readiness to pay all religions. There is the barest possible acknowledgment that there may be such a thing as religion among Dissenters: there is every honour and prerogative conferred on the Church and its Clergy: and there is secretly and silently reserved the power of making grants for the teaching of every kind of religion in the schools.

Now, my lord, here is the seed, the small, scarcely discernible seed of the support of every kind of religious teaching by the State. The Continental system is, to support ministers of every sect by Government stipends: and this system, I presume, finds favour with the Cabinet, partly from its apparent civil justice, and partly because it brings all kinds of teachers of religion into state-connexion and state-pay. But you do not think it politic to propose such a system openly and at once. You therefore introduce the principle by a side-wind,—not in an Act of Parliament—for it seems you intend conveniently to dispense with that ceremony,—but in a grant of money made to schools, through a Committee of the Privy Council appointed by an Act of 1839!

Mr. Baines concludes his letter as follows:—

If the Dissenters, true to their principles, should reject the beguiling offer of Government money and control, the expense of the system will be something less. But not much. For the certain tendency of the system will be to draw away the scholars and resources from the schools of Dissenters, to ruin them, and to cause new Church schools to arise in their stead.

There is one circumstance, my lord, of a constitutional kind, in connexion with this measure, which I believe the country will regard with astonishment and strong disapprobation. Your lordship is reported to have said—"He might claim to lay these papers upon the table without making any prefatory remarks, seeing that they did not lead to any conclusion which would require their lordships' sanction, and did not require, in order to give effect to them, any Bill to which the consent of the other House would be necessary."

Then, it seems, this mighty change in the educational system of the country is to be carried into effect in virtue of the act establishing the Committee of Council on Education in 1839, and without any further opportunity for discussion than that afforded by the motion on the estimates in the House of Commons! To me this appears a very strange and unconstitutional proceeding,—though quite in character with the measure to which it belongs. I hope the members of the House of Commons will not assent to this prodigious extension of the powers and operations of the Committee of Council, without requiring it to be made the matter of a regular bill, and to pass through its three readings and committees in both Houses. A bill, in 1839, for aiding to erect school-houses to the amount of some £30,000 a year, could never have been intended to justify the enormous machinery and outlay now contemplated.

And now, my lord, I have fulfilled my painful duty. I have thus far discharged my conscience. Subduing my personal feelings and party attachments, I have exposed, as I thought truth and the interests of my country demanded, this unjust, unnecessary, insidious, and mischievous measure. By large bribes you have bought the acquiescence of the Church—if, indeed, men should be so blind as to receive as a boon money taken by force of law out of their own pockets. But I believe you will find that you have alienated and exasperated the Dissenters. It is for them now to speak. The time draws near when it will be for them to act.

Mr. Wakley, M.P., was entertained at a public dinner at the Angel Inn, Islington, on Monday, in honour of his public services. Mr. Fielden, M.P., presided; and amongst the guests were Mr. Duncombe, M.P., Mr. W. S. Crawford, M.P., Mr. W. Williams, M.P., and Sir De Lacy Evans.

EARL POWIS is a candidate for the office of Chancellor of the Cambridge University, vacant by the death of the Duke of Northumberland.

WELSH SKETCHES.

No. XII.

THE QUINTESSENCE OF INSULT.

The people of Wales have been of late set in a pillory, for the abominable crimes of speaking the Welsh language and dissenting from the State church, and are doomed to be pelted with mud by all who may be so disposed. Poor fellows! there they have been, ever since the Llandoverly conference, the laughing-stocks and bye-words of the whole civilized world! And for aught we know, there they must remain, until they will renounce their national and ecclesiastical heresies, and become thoroughly orthodox in language and religion. If banter, ridicule, and insult, ever made converts, and wrought miracles of transformation, we may depend upon it that the Welsh are past recovery, in case the treatment now adopted towards them should prove unsuccessful.

Education! education! is the cant pass-word of the day. The whole batch of the would-be renovators of the age are writhing in the agonies of educational convulsions. Converts to the utility of education are as numerous as snow-flakes "when the Welshman plucks his geese;" educational bugbears and statistical hobgoblins are conjured up with amazing rapidity; "spirits" are "called from the vasty deep" of popular ignorance, and up they come, leaping and jumping, dancing and skipping, in multitudinous array, until the very conjurors themselves become mad with horror. All this, and much more, is being daily witnessed, for education has become a popular subject, now that Lord John Russell has elected himself to be its tutelary deity.

But of all black holes under the sun, or even under the earth, poor Wales is the blackest, darkest, and most miserable. There, as soon as the Severn is crossed, the darkness becomes visible and tangible. There the spirits of the deep have completely possessed the land, to the inconceivable dismay and the indescribable bewilderment of senators, tutors, and editors. And there seven hundred thousand of some beings having the form of men are found so imbecile in mind, and so stubborn in heart, as to be utterly careless of the abundant means supplied for the "cure of their souls" by the immaculate State-church that exists among them. Let Wales, then, be pelted with mud, and tattooed with rotten eggs, as were the evangelists in the eighteenth century.

The mud-pelting match was commenced by a gentleman so profoundly learned in the Welsh as to commit an egregious grammatical blunder in a sentence consisting of only three words in that language, in the first address he published on the subject; and justice bids us declare that this unlucky sentence was the only one he attempted. Then came statistics, raving and roaring that all the population between five and fifteen years of age should be in day schools. That number was computed to be 250,000—a computation which exhibited a trifling mistake of 37,000. (*vide* "Population Returns for 1841," Age Abstract, p. 456.) This assuredly was too bad from any one pretending to be the instructor of his country. The teacher needed to be taught, and should have been the first student admitted to the normal school. Yet when men blunder in earnest efforts to do good, we must deal leniently with them, though the mischief which they occasion may be of serious consequence. After this, Mr. Williams of Coventry brought forward his celebrated motion, and delivered himself of a unique speech. He discovered the astounding facts, that but very few of the adult population of Wales could read in their own language, and that they were so anxious for education as to establish eighty Sabbath-schools for their own instruction! In truth, the man who could so speak deserves to be sent to *Coventry*—to be kept in safe custody. Having thus received their clue from the collective wisdom of the land, sundry editors of liberal newspapers (falsely so called) set about describing our lamentable ignorance. A correspondent of *Douglas Jerrold's* found out that Wales was inhabited "by a tribe nearly uneducated, nearly uncivilized." Even the *Patriot* doubted whether our condition was one of simplicity or rudeness.

Seeing matters progressing so hopefully, the Church and State party tried their hands at a similar game. *John Bull* bellowed, roared, and raved, upon the authority of a correspondent who had received his information from a clerical magistrate, that Welsh Dissenting ministers had refused to join a certain clergyman, to preach against the crimes of cutting and stabbing, two cases of which had occurred in the clergyman's parish. Then a "Cambro Sacerdos," in the columns of the *Cardiff Advertiser*, opened a deadly fire upon us for successive weeks, in volleys of some four feet in length. According to this crazy Puseyite, the Welsh language is the stronghold of ignorance, and dissent from the Church of England the greatest and direst of human curses. With him brutality, drunkenness, sensuality, bastardy, and vice of every mortal description, are but synonyms for dissent. The columns of a local print, we venture to say, were never more disgraced than by the insertion of the aforesaid scandalous, outrageous, and libellous remarks. He at last turned his fire, and poured his wrath upon the evangelical clergy and other officials of the State-church, whereupon the "highest ecclesiastical authority" interfered, and the publication of his letters was suspended. But when Dissenters were maligned, and when their religious services were described as being the occasion, if not the cause, of all the sensuality and bastardy which exists in the land, his lordship's equanimity was not disturbed. It so happened, however, that this scurrilous writer, whose letters are unfit to be read by English and Welsh women, did not account how certain of his brother clergymen occasionally figure in connexion with the last-

mentioned crime. Of course it cannot be supposed that they would commit the more heinous transgression of attending the church meetings of these sensual Dissenters. Perhaps clerical logic and priestly ingenuity may enable "Cambro Sacerdos" to solve this apparent discrepancy. We say *apparent*, for of course it cannot be real to his delicate and enlightened mind. And it is possible that his lordship of Llandaff would not object to his resuming the subject in connexion with Dissenters, provided he can clear his brethren from any suspicion, and not intermeddle with gentlemen in "holy orders."

"Och, in truth it never rains but that it pours!" And see how the showers of insult discharge themselves upon the poor miserable heretics of Wales! Government has issued a batch of commissioners to inquire into the state of education in the Principality. Why "education in Wales," in the name of wonder, more than in England? Is education so wide spread in the latter country as not to require a similar investigation? We trow not. In fact, we are prepared to show, from documents issued by the authority of Government itself, that the destitution in some parts of England fully equals, nay vastly surpasses, that which exists in Wales. But, if inquiry was needed, why not issue a commission that *could* have done us justice? The present cannot, how desirous soever they may be of acting fairly and impartially. The whole concern is a piece of preposterous absurdity. Englishmen—three Englishmen—are sent to inspect the state of education in a country whose customs they do not understand, and of whose language they are as competent to form an opinion as the man in the moon. Had three Welshmen been appointed, it would have indicated a wish on the part of Government to obtain correct data; and had two out of the three been Dissenters, it would have evinced a desire to act justly towards us. But no; fairness and justice seldom fall to the share of Wales. We are treated with three Englishmen and three Churchmen. Had the appointment rested with a council of idiots, instead of the Council of Education, probably it would not have been so egregiously absurd. Here it is, however, a sad memorial of English justice to the most loyal and peaceable population in the Queen's dominions. The commissioners—assisted, it is said, by some Welshmen and some Dissenters (but if the commissioners depend upon the assistants, why were the latter not left to manage the affair without the former?)—commence the inquiry. They issue a list of queries, all in English; and, as a matter of course, they obtain replies, written in broken English, from which a unique report must be compiled. We quarrel not with the gentlemen appointed; for aught we know, they may be the best qualified in the world to conduct such an investigation in their own country. We only protest against the absurdity and injustice of their being sent to Wales on that errand. All true-hearted Welshmen and earnest Dissenters must feel it a burning insult; and generous, right-minded Englishmen can regard it in no other light. Suppose that three monoglot Welshmen—raw fellows, not of Trevecca, Pontypool, or Brecon colleges, for such cannot be found in either—unable to understand a word of English—were, by some insane council, appointed commissioners to inquire into the state of education in some of the English counties, Norfolk and Bedford for instance, and let them send out a list of Welsh questions, and require written answers in the same language. Grant them the assistance of half-a-dozen Englishmen for the purpose; yet how would the procedure, from beginning to end, be regarded by every claimant to the blessing of common sense on the soil of England? Why—if no such consequences as are to follow from the Welsh inquiry were connected with it—as the *Quintessence of Insult*. Can that which would be felt an intolerable insult to England and Englishmen be justice to Wales and Welshmen?

AN ADVENTURE IN THE SNOW.—On Monday week two gentlemen, Messrs. Wragley and Sidebottom, left Manchester for the purpose of surveying the boundary between the counties of Derbyshire and Yorkshire. They left the train at the Woodhead station about nine in the morning, and thence walked as far as Holme Moss, and turned westward. Whilst on their way the snow storm came on; the familiar landmarks were soon obliterated; they lost their way, and remained wandering in the snow and resting in a hole in the rocks without food for twenty-six hours! During the night they had great difficulty in keeping off the fatal drowsiness known to be induced by extreme cold, and were in a most dreadful plight when morning came. With returning light they were fortunate enough to discover a farm-house, where food and warmth restored them.

ANOTHER CASE OF POISONING has been discovered in Essex, in the neighbourhood of Dunmow. The illegitimate child of Sarah Bright and David Grey died suddenly; an inquest was held, and it seemed probable that the infant had perished from an opiate. It then appeared, however, that the drug might have been administered by the parents with no evil intention, but medicinally, in excess; so that an open verdict was returned, that the deceased had died of convulsions. Suspicious circumstances having since come to light, the parents were arrested, examined before the Dunmow magistrates, and committed for trial on a charge of wilful murder.

THE WEATHER IN LONDON.—Since last Monday we had a continuance of frost, without intermission, until Saturday evening, when a partial thaw set in. Friday was the coldest day which we experienced for the year. On Sunday morning it commenced raining (the wind having shifted to the south-west), and now all appearance of winter has completely gone; we have still rain, but the air is mild and genial as in spring.

Let every minister, while he is preaching, remember that God makes one of his hearers.

CHEAP SOUP FOR THE POOR, AND M. SOYER.—Among the public benefactors of the day, may be reckoned the celebrated master in the art of cookery, M. Soyer. In a letter to the *Standard*, M. Soyer falls foul of the soup distributed by charitable institutions to the poor; which by experience he knows to be badly cooked, and unpalatable:—

Above twenty years' experience and practice in the culinary art has taught me that it requires more science to produce a good dish at a trifling expense than a superior one with unlimited means; and I shall have no difficulty to prove the truth of the observation. I also have seen in several instances great confusion in the distribution of soups; nearly the same quantity being given to each poor applicant (or nearly so) without ascertaining the number of persons in each family. After seriously reflecting upon such an important and pressing subject, I am happy to inform you, that I have contrived the plan of a kitchen for the making and distribution of soup to the poor, of a very simple construction, by which a thousand gallons, more or less, of excellent and very economical soup, may be made in a few hours, at about two or three farthings a quart; which could be fairly, cleanly, and quickly distributed to thousands of people once or twice a day if required.

This kitchen, says M. Soyer, can be set up in a field. He offers to put the plan in practice gratuitously; nay, he contributes a subscription of £30 towards a fund for the purpose; he also forwarded £20 from a scientific friend. M. Soyer's good example has been followed by "An Occasional Reader" of the *Morning Post*, who sends a contribution of £10, and a suggestion in aid.

MR. GEORGE ROBINS, the eminent auctioneer, died on Monday, at Brighton. Mr. Robins's father had exercised the same calling in Yorkshire; and an accident made the son enter the rostrum at the age of nineteen. His practice extended over a period of fifty years. He married rather late in life, and has left a widow and seven young children; for whom, however, there is ample provision. Mr. Robins's eccentricities were redeemed by good-nature; and he was active to the last—busy, we believe, with building plans—and quite able to direct everything, "if it were not for his legs;" for he was tied to his chair by dropsy, common on the final decline of life.—*Spectator*.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPRIETARY MILLS.—On Wednesday evening last, another meeting of artisans and labourers took place in Lincoln, for the purpose of promoting the establishment of a proprietary mill. It appears that already the organization consists of 190 members, all of the working classes, who, hitherto, have gone unaided by their wealthier neighbours. Each has taken a share of £1, which is paid by instalments. The intention is, if sufficient capital can be raised, to build or buy a mill; for the company to buy their own corn, and, after grinding it, to sell the flour to the shareholders at a small per-centage above prime cost, just sufficient to cover the expenses. A similar affair at Hull is stated to have paid forty per cent.; and it is, also, stated that the price of best flour to the shareholders has not, during the range of high prices, been above 2s. 2d. per stone.—*Lincolnshire Herald*.

SHORT SUPPLY OF POTATO SEED.—The *Cork Examiner* publishes a letter from Messrs. Keeling and Hunt, who have been commissioned by Government to look out in the different grain markets of the world for a supply of potato seed. They have made efforts to procure seed potatoes from France, the Azores, and Russia, but unsuccessfully; and they have sent to Bermuda as a last resource. "It is very evident," say they, "that Ireland must fall back upon grain food. We look to the present visitation as a providential warning as to the futility of depending upon so precarious a root as the potato."

NARROW ESCAPE.—On Thursday last a farmer, residing a few miles from Cirencester, sent a load of corn into that town, and with the carter was sent a basket for grocery. In the evening the basket was taken into the house, and the farmer's wife examined its contents to see if it was all right; she found a parcel more than she had ordered, and opened it to discover what it was, but she did not then know; she held it to the candle and stirred it about with her finger, took some out and rubbed it on the paper; but not being able to satisfy her curiosity, she tied it up again, with the view of returning it to the grocer. On the morning the carter's wife came to ask for the said parcel, which was a pound of blowing gunpowder, which the carter had brought for another person! The consternation of the household may be imagined on this discovery. There was no kind of label on the parcel.—*Gloucester Journal*.

ESCAPE OF DOM MIGUEL.—It was very generally reported yesterday, that Dom Miguel, whose escape from Rome we mentioned several days since, had arrived in London. We have no authority beyond a very prevalent and apparently well authenticated rumour for this statement, and our own correspondence induces us to believe that he proceeded from Civita Vecchia direct for Portugal.—*Times*.

BATTERSEA PARK.—On Saturday the surveyors were busily engaged taking the levels for the bridge to cross the Thames to the new park about to be formed in Battersea-fields, from near the Chelsea waterworks, having direct approaches on the Middlesex side from Sloane-street and the Commercial-road. The park will extend from the Southwark waterworks to the Battersea-bridge-road, enclosing all the ground between the Thames and the Wandsworth-road, and a promenade and carriage drive to be formed on both sides of the river, to extend on the Middlesex shore from Vauxhall-bridge to Cheyne-walk, Chelsea.—*Globe*.

THE EXPORT OF GRAIN FROM THE BLACK SEA PROHIBITED.—We are informed that official information was on Monday received that the Emperor of Russia has prohibited all further exportation of corn from his dominions.—*Times*. [This absurd step will be a serious injury to this and other countries of western Europe, and but little advantage to Russia. The stocks which are accumulated in the ports of the Black Sea, and in the neighbourhood, are, from the difficulty of the land carriage, hardly available for the other parts of the Russian empire; and the stopping of the export would occasion an immense loss to the southern provinces, without in the least benefiting the others.]

LITERATURE.

Christ the Desire of all Nations; or, The Unconscious Prophecies of Heathendom: being the Hulsean Lectures for the year 1846. By RICHARD CHEVENIX TRENCH, M.A., Vicar of Ithen Stoke, Hants, Professor of Divinity, King's College, London, and Examining Chaplain to the Lord Bishop of Oxford. London: J. W. Parker.

MR. TRENCH is known to a large class of readers, principally members of the Establishment, by his "Notes" on the "Parables" and "Miracles," some poems, and a Volume of Hulsean Lectures. He bids fair to be a voluminous writer; and, if he continue in the good way in which he has begun, we shall not regret his fruitfulness or popularity. There is a great charm about his compositions to our minds which we cheerfully avow, an originality of thought, and a beauty of style, which are very delightful to meet with. The greatest defect about the latter is sometimes an excessive homeliness and artlessness, which is an affectation of simplicity and pathos brought into vogue by the Tractarian authors. We may call it a *lackadaisical* style. Excepting this—which, after all, may serve to mollify and sweeten the rough commercial spirit of the day—Mr. Trench is, indeed, a bewitching writer, and is, doubtless, destined to a high place in the ranks of literature. Though his subjects are theological, they are not technically treated; he makes many free and pleasant excursions to other scenes and sciences; treats Christianity as not the stern foe, but the friend and fulfilment of all that is true and good and gracious among men; fetches his illustrations from all parts of history; and thus reaches and affects minds who would be repelled by scholastic subtlety and stiffness.

The volume before us is on a very solemn and important theme. How many thoughts does it awaken! What a scene does it spread before us! What deep sympathies does it arouse! What a majestic mission does it assign to Christianity! What strength does it impart to its evidence! Mr. Trench deals with the subject in a temper of tenderness and generosity worthy of its delicacy, and with a knowledge and skill such as its importance requires. Of course, eight short lectures cannot be supposed to exhaust it, nor even to touch upon all its parts. Suggestions are to be looked for rather than disquisitions; and, by the help of the suggestions contained in these lectures, an intelligent reader may traverse a wide and affecting field, gathering together important revelations of man and God. Mr. Trench thus describes his object:—

"Leaving aside, as not belonging to my argument, what there was of positive divinely constituted preparation for the coming of Christ in the Jewish economy, I shall make it my task to trace what, in my narrow limits, I may, of the implicit expectations which there were in the heathen world—to contemplate, at least, under a few leading aspects, the yearnings of the nations for a redeemer, and for all which the true Redeemer only could give—for the great facts of his life—for the great truths of his teaching. Nor may this be all: for this, however interesting in itself, would yet scarcely come under the title of Christian apology; of which the idea is, that it is not merely the truth, but the truth asserting itself in the face of error. It will, therefore, be my endeavour further to rescue these dim prophetic anticipations of the heathen world from the use which has sometimes been made of them; to show that these dreams of the world, so far from helping to persuade us that all which we hold is a dream likewise, are rather exactly that which ought to have preceded the world's awaking—that these parhelions do not proclaim everything else to be an optical illusion, but announce, and witness for, a sun that is travelling into sight—that these false *ancilia* of man's forging, tell of a true, which has indeed come down from heaven—that these needs ought to have been there, the transcending worth and dignity of the Christian revelation not being diminished by their existence, but rather enhanced; for its glory lies, not in its having relation to nothing which went before itself, but rather in its having relation to everything, in its being the middle point to which all lines, some consciously, more unconsciously, were tending, and in which all centered at the last."—pp. 2-4.

As a specimen of the way in which the undefined ideas and cravings of humanity are interpreted, we may give the following:—

"And if it may be permitted me to take a little wider range, and to gather proofs and confirmations of what I am affirming, of the manner in which human nature has claimed a resurrection as its own, not from the heathen world only, but from wherever in popular faith or tradition I can find them, I would, then, adduce, as a remarkable illustration of this, the exceeding difficulty with which the world has ever persuaded itself of the death of any who have mightily blessed it, or with whom it has confidently garnered up its dearest hopes—the eagerness with which it snatches at the thought, that such a one has not truly died, making much of the slightest hint that seems to give a colour to this; so congenial is it to the heart of man. It was said of Moses—"No man knoweth his sepulchre unto this day" (Deut. xxxiv. 6), and these words, despite the plain declaration that went before, were sufficient motive for a whole family of Jewish legends to the effect that he had not really paid the debt appointed to every man living. In like manner we know how that word of the Lord, concerning the beloved apostle—"If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?" this was enough to cause the report to go forth that he should not die; and not the express denial by St. John himself of any such significance in the words, was able to extinguish this belief, which continued to propagate itself from age to age.

"In like manner, we sometimes see a whole nation which has found it impossible to believe, that he on whom its hopes were fondly built, whom it had trusted should at this time have delivered it, and with whose death those hopes have all fallen to the ground,—that he indeed has come, like other men, under the law of mortality,—has passed away, and left his work, as it seems, unfinished. How long Britain was waiting for her Arthur!—how long did the legends that told of him, as surviving yet in the far valley of Avalon, live on the lips and in the hearts of a people? And exactly in the same manner, in a later and more historic age, Portugal waited for her youthful king; looked fondly and with aching expectation for his return—and

this, for many a weary year after he had perished, not obscurely, but in open fight, among the sands of Africa.

"And may not some of us have known, brethren, in our own experience, something that quite explains to us this difficulty of believing in death? Have we not found this difficulty ourselves? how, when the loved are gone, when they have left their places empty, it is only by repeated efforts that we can realize to ourselves that it indeed is so—how we have to say again and again to hearts half-incredulous still, that it will never again in this world be otherwise—that so much truth, and faith, and love, have indeed been withdrawn from hence and for ever. Thus earnestly does the spirit of man protest even against the semblance of annihilation, which death seems to wear.

"Nor need it of necessity be the loved or hoped in those in whom the expectations of others have intensely centered; let it be only some terrible man, one that has curdled the life-blood of the world with fear; and even such an one as this, having once been so much to men, though only so much to their fears, they will hardly be persuaded to have indeed passed away from the earth which so quaked and shuddered at his tread. To take an instance familiar to most of us: how long after the death of Nero did the firm persuasion survive, that he was only hidden for a season, and that the earth should once more be cursed with his presence—the Christians of the Roman empire giving this expectation a colouring natural to them, and conceiving of him as the Antichrist who should make presently his terrible re-appearance from the East, to carry forward against them the work of blood which he had commenced."—pp. 36-39.

The topics of the lectures are:—The Vanquished of Hades; the Son of God; the Perfect Sacrifice; the Restorer of Paradise; the Redeemer from Sin; the Founder of a Kingdom. Besides these six, there are—one Introductory; one Concluding; and a sermon for Good Friday. The volume is very worthy the calm perusal of intelligent men, and to such we strongly commend it.

The Domestic Constitution; or, the Family Circle the Source and Test of National Stability. By CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON. A New and Improved Edition. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

WE regret that we cannot, at present, devote a larger space to this valuable book. We should like to give it a thorough examination, but must content ourselves with a warm recommendation. There is no subject that excites more attention just now than that of national education, and there is no branch of education more important than *home*. We are afraid that the zeal of many is leading them unconsciously to neglect some of the plainest provisions, and most fundamental principles, of God's plan of educating man, and rejoice that so strong and sensible a defence of "the Domestic Constitution" has appeared to check their unbelieving haste. It is admirably fitted both to maintain the rights and powers of that constitution, and to guide and stimulate in the use of its means and privileges. The work consists of two parts—the *First*, containing seven sections, entitled "Preliminary Observations," "The Family Constitution," "Connexions subsisting between the different Branches of the Domestic Constitution," "The Penalty or Punishment of Disobedience or Neglect, descending to Posterity," "The Blessing connected with Obedience, descending to Posterity," "The Moral Power which is peculiar to the Domestic Constitution," "The Danger and Vanity of Interference with the Domestic Constitution," "Concluding Reflections." The *Second* part contains eight sections, entitled, "Obedience and Success contrasted with Negligence and Ruin," "The Causes of Failure traced to their source," "The means of Recovery and Establishment," "The Manner of Procedure with regard to a Family," "Domestic Government," "Domestic Devotion," "Domestic Education, as distinguished from Purchased Tuition, the Obligations to which are not only Indispensable, but Untransferable," "Concluding Address, to Christian Parents, and the Ministers of Christ, more especially as the Heads of Families." The work is comprehensive in topics, sound in principles, wise in observation, and practical in tendency, and we trust that parents will consult its important pages, that they may know how to "walk before their households with a perfect heart."

The Triumph of Henry VIII. over the Usurpations of the Church, and the Consequences of the Royal Supremacy. A Paper read to the Philosophical Institute, Sept. 25th, 1846. By GEORGE OFFOR, 13sq. London: Henry Campkin, Fleet-street.

By a variety of facts, general and specific, the author shows the terrible corruption which preceded the Reformation. It was time, indeed, that the clergy were brought within the pale of the law. With the general sentiments of the paper on the point discussed we agree, and hope that its startling statements will serve to dissipate some of the amazing errors that prevail, and prevail, too, in what are called "well-informed circles."

The Provincial Letters of Blaise Pascal. A New Translation, with Historical Introduction and Notes, by the Rev. THOMAS M'CRIE. London: J. Johnstone, Paternoster-row.

PASCAL's letters inflicted one of the "heaviest blows and greatest discouragements" on Jesuitism which it has ever received. Their spirit and power fitted them to expose and rebuke the most subtle and malignant form of error and corruption which ever appeared under the name of Christianity. They have lost none of their useful force. Apart from a small portion of matter of past and private history, they are to-day as serviceable as ever in defence of the truth. They retain their integrity, after most energetic and many-sided attempts to discredit and destroy them.

The present edition is an uncommonly good one. The translation is by a competent hand, and well executed. The basis of it, says Mr. M'Crie, is the edition of "Amsterdam, published in four volumes 12mo, 1767, with the notes of Nicole, and his prefatory History of the Provin-

cials, which were translated from the Latin into French by Mademoiselle De Joncourt. With this and other French editions I have compared Nicole's Latin translation, which appeared in 1658, and received the sanction of Pascal." The "Historical Introduction," of nearly seventy pages of close print, and the "Notes," add very much to the value of the work, from the large number of interesting facts, and sound and sensible observations, they contain. We cannot doubt that it will become a favourite edition of an invaluable work.

Pulpit Studies; or, Aids to Meditation and Preaching. By JOHN STYLES, D.D. Second Series. London: Ward and Co., Paternoster-row.

THIS volume contains nearly forty sketches of sermons of various length and character. To persons who are fond of reading discourses, they would no doubt furnish ample materials for profitable meditation. To respectable laymen, also, who are in the habit of exercising their gifts in the way of public instruction, the volume would prove a useful addition to their library. But beyond this we attach but little value to works of this description. For ministers to have recourse to them is disgraceful. We have no idea of men who sustain the sacred office walking into the pulpit on stilts, or with crutches. God wants in his service men who both *can* and *will* work for him. Drones and cripples are of no use, but a hindrance and a stumbling-block. The fewer there are of them the better. The present age demands imperatively men of power and industry, of devotedness and zeal—men who in the ardour of their spirit, and the energy of their intellect, cannot brook a restraint, nor yield to resistance in their onward course. Such men are not made with stilts and crutches, nor can they use them. The heroic soul of David deigns not to accept the armour of Saul. But give him his sling, his smooth stones, and his God, and who is the man that has defied the enemies of Israel?

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

MYDDLETON-ROAD CHAPEL, DALSTON.—The first stone of the above place was laid by Remington Mills, Esq., on Tuesday, February 2nd, in the presence of a very large assembly. An introductory service was held in Philipps-street Chapel, when Mr. A. Wells was to have delivered an address, but he being prevented by indisposition, Mr. J. Jefferson kindly undertook this duty, and delivered a most judicious and suitable discourse. The chapel is being built for the congregation of the Rev. C. Dukes, A.M., but will afford accommodation for double the number that can sit in the present place; so that additional room will be provided for five or six hundred persons in the large new district already erected, and still increasing. The chapel is to be in the Gothic style, and is to seat a thousand people. There are to be two school-rooms adjoining; and, including these, the length from front to back will be 102 feet, and the width 44 feet. The contract for the whole is £2,739. The building is to be completed by the 1st of June. Towards the required amount nearly £1,100 have been paid into the bank, and the promises still unpaid make the total sum about £1,400. The ministers present on the occasion were Messrs. G. Wilkins, C. F. Vardy, A.M., Dr. Hewlett, J. Davis (co-pastor with Dr. Pye Smith), J. Spong, J. Woodhouse, E. Muscutt, J. Hall (of Cheshunt), and J. Addiscott (of Taunton).

CIRENCESTER.—Mr. Edward Bewley has announced his intention of resigning his charge over the Independent church and congregation in this town at the end of June.

BOGNOR.—A deeply interesting meeting was held at Hanover Chapel, Bognor, on Wednesday evening, Jan. 27th, on the occasion of re-opening that place of worship, after considerable enlargement. The pastor presided, supported by several ministers of the county. The Chairman stated, that the entire expense of the enlargement had been defrayed, and there would be no collection. Among the subscribers were the Duke of Richmond, the Earl of March, and several of the gentry resident in the neighbourhood; the visitors had also come forward to aid in accomplishing the object. Mr. J. C. Cane stated, that it was intended forthwith to erect public day-schools, plans being already in preparation, and subscriptions to nearly half the amount requisite promised. £20 from C. Dixon, Esq., Stansted; £10 from the Duke of Richmond; £5 from Joseph Godman, Esq.; £5 from Joshua Wilson, Esq., of Highbury, and several others; but, that the building would not be commenced until the whole amount required was in hand. G. Pullinger, Esq., of Chichester, made reference to the excellent letters of Mr. Baines, on the subject of education, and urged the necessity of individual effort, as it regards the instruction of the people. John Westmore Buckell, Esq., as treasurer of the Sabbath school, presented from the children a beautifully bound Watts's Hymn-book to the Chairman. Mr. W. Malden, of Chichester, presented a magnificently bound pulpit Bible, as a testimonial of the people's regard for their pastor.

LATIMER CHAPEL, BRIDGE-STREET, MILE END.—At the close of the usual meeting of the church on Thursday evening, Feb. 4, 1847, the deacons, in the name of the church and congregation, presented to their beloved pastor, Mr. R. Saunders, an elegant and richly engraved silver coffee-pot, in testimony of their high estimation of his disinterested pastoral services, and likewise as expressive of their sense of his prudent and judicious, as well as truly Christian, conduct in the delicate task of receiving, during the past year, a large secession from a neighbouring church. On the removal of the church from the Mile End-road to their present commodious and elegant place of worship, a tea service was presented to the pastor, the gift on the present occasion rendering that service complete.

BILLERICAY.—Mr. E. Dewhirst has relinquished the pastoral oversight of the Independent church and congregation at Billericay, Essex.

GLEANINGS.

NUMBER OF JEWS IN AMERICA.—Mr. Bonhomme has given the following statistical information respecting the numbers of the Jews. The calculations are the nearest approach to accuracy that he was able to make. Philadelphia, 4,000; Baltimore, 1,300; Richmond, Vir. 500; Petersburg, Vir. 40 or 50; Savannah, Geo. 100; Charleston, S. C. 1,000; Columbia, S. C. 60 families; New Orleans, several thousands; Mobile, 100; Cincinnati, from 2,000 to 3,000; Louisville, 200 to 300; St. Louis, 100. Besides these, there is no town of any size that Mr. B. has visited in the southern or western country, where he did not find numbers of Israelites.—*Jewish Herald*.

PAT'S LIBERALITY.—At Sheffield, one day, a little girl was sent to the shop of an Irishman to know how he sold his oranges a score. "Is it a score you want?" said the shopkeeper; "faith, I'll let you have a dozen; you may eat them, and if they arn't good 'uns I'll change 'em."

PARSNIP BREAD.—Mr. Petit, of Cotton-lane, Bury, is making bread, four parts parsnips, and five parts wheat-flour. It eats remarkably well—is nutritious and whole some.

MEMORY.—Many have large but unsanctified memories, which serve only to gather knowledge whereby to aggravate their condemnation.—*Boston*.

In a recent trial in the Loudoun County Court, U.S., counsel laid it down as law that slaves were not persons, but property, and that there was no lawful marriage for them!

A correspondent of the *Daily News* says, "I know a moderate sized estate, not many miles from Petersfield, Hampshire, where the keeper has twenty-one bushels of corn served out to him once a week, for feeding the pheasants alone; what must it be on a large estate?"

The *Builder* thinks that the day has arrived when the public lamps should be lighted simultaneously, by the aid of galvanism.

Nineteen-twentieths of the land in the three kingdoms, says a correspondent of the *Morning Advertiser*, including church property, is entailed, and, as such, cannot be leased for any term of years except in Scotland.

The town of Yarmouth is bound by ancient charter to send to the sheriffs of Norwich a hundred herrings, which are to be baked in twenty-four pies, or pasties, and then delivered to the Lord of the Manor of East Carlton, who is to convey them to the Queen.

A correspondent of the *Gardener's Chronicle* mentions that a bee's nest was found a few days since among the blankets of a bed, which had not been used since the spring. The bees were all dead, as they had consumed their stock of honey.

THE DESCENDANT OF THE LAST OF THE BARONS.—The heralds' officers, within the month, have found the head of all the Nevilles—the lineal descendant of the proud Earl of Warwick, who made kings at pleasure—a journeyman boot-closer at Northampton.—*Liverpool Journal*.

MUNIFICENCE OF THE MILLOCRACY.—Proud of my heritage, indeed; I am more, I love it, I reverence it with the fondest affection, and bless the accident that made me a Manchester man. In less than three years, the noble-spirited inhabitants of Manchester—a mere provincial town—have given away, out of their own earnings, upwards of three hundred thousand pounds! Oh! how hard-hearted, selfish, and grasping, are the cottonocracy.—*John's Easyby's Memoirs*.

A BEACON TO VOTE BY.—Lord Sidmouth used occasionally to amuse his friends with stories of a well-known humorist, Mr. Ferguson, of Pitfour, who held a seat in the House when his lordship was Speaker. That gentleman used to insist that the Government ought always to select a tall man to fill the office of Lord Advocate. "We Scotch members," he said, "always vote with the Lord Advocate; and we require, therefore, to see him in a division. Now, I can see Mr. Pitt, and I can see Mr. Addington; but I cannot see the Lord Advocate."—*Life of Lord Sidmouth*.

A LITERARY CONSCIENCE.—The following note, enclosing £5, was lately received by Captain Duncane, R.N., of Braxted-lodge, and we publish it, not merely as a curiosity, but as disproving the general belief that book-borrowers and book-plunderers are never troubled with touches of conscience:—"Honored sir The hinclosed Five pound note his yours for Books taken from the library at braxted lodge A long wile agoe A servant." The writer has cert inly not profited much by the books, whatsoever they were.—*Essex Herald*.

ECONOMY IN THE SCARCITY.—If those of the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland who are in the habit of using bread newly baked were to use old baked bread, they would find that three old baked loaves would go as far as five new ones. Were all to adopt this practice, immensely more would be added to the general stock for the supply of the public than can possibly be brought from America. Old-baked bread being much more wholesome than new, the general health of the community would by this plan be promoted.

HOUSEHOLD EDUCATION.—I believe it happens oftener than anybody knows, that the first conjugal discontents follow on the birth of the first child. The young mother trusts too much to her husband's interest in her new treasure being equal to her own—a thing which the constitution of man's nature and the arrangements of his business render impossible. He will love his infant dearly, and sacrifice much for it, if he remains, as he ought, his wife's first object. But if she neglects his comfort to indulge in fondling her infant, she is doing wrong to both. If her husband no longer finds, on his return from his business, a clean and quiet fireside, and a wife eager to welcome him, but a litter of baby-things, and a wife too busy upstairs to come down, or too much engaged with her infant to talk with him and make him comfortable, there is a mischief done which never can be repaired. And if this infant be not the first, there is another person to be no less carefully considered—the next youngest. I was early struck by hearing the mother of a large family say that her pet was always the youngest but one; it was so hard to cease to be the baby! Little children are as jealous of affection as the most enraptured lover; and they are too young to have learned to control their passions and to be reasonable. A more miserable being can hardly exist than a little creature who, having been accustomed to the tenderness always lavished on the baby—having spent almost its whole life in its mother's arms, and been the first to be greeted on its father's entrance, finds itself bid to sit on its little stool, or turned over to the maid, or to rough brothers and sisters to be taken care of, while every body gathers round the baby to admire and love it. Angry and jealous feelings may grow into dreadful passions in the little breast, if great care be not taken to smooth over the rough passage from babyhood to childhood. If the mother would have this

child love and not hate the baby, if she would have peace and not tempest reign in the little heart, she will be very watchful. She will have her eye on the little creature, and call it to help her take care of the baby. She will keep it at her knee, and show it, with many a tender kiss between, how to make baby smile, how to warm baby's feet; will let it taste whether baby's food be nice, and then peep into the cradle to see whether baby be asleep. And when baby is asleep, the mother will open her arms to the little helper, and fondle it as of old, and let it be all in all to her, as it used to be. This is a great piece of education to them both, and a lesson of justice to all who stand by.—*Harriet Martineau, in the People's Journal*.

WASTING EFFECTS OF YEAST IN BREAD-MAKING.—We quote the following paragraph from the *Economist* newspaper, for no practical suggestion for economizing the national stock of food at this afflicting crisis should be overlooked:—"It is a positive fact that throughout Great Britain and Ireland a quantity of flour sufficient for the supply of many thousands is every day destroyed, dissipated, and lost utterly to human use. This is the inevitable result of using yeast in the composition of bread. A portion of flour becomes decomposed in the process of fermentation, and passes off into the atmosphere in the shape of carbonic acid gas. As it escapes it puffs up the tenacious dough, and makes it spongy and light. This is the only end for which yeast is employed in bread-making; but the same object can be effected quite as well by other chemical processes, which do not occasion any loss of substance to the flour. Dr. Dundas Thompson has ascertained, by experiments on a large scale, that in a sack of flour there is a difference in favour of bread made without yeast to the amount of thirty pounds thirteen ounces; or, in round numbers, a sack of flour would produce 107 loaves of unfermented bread, and only 100 loaves of fermented bread of the same weight. Hence it appears, that in the sack of flour by the common process of baking, seven loaves or six and a half per cent. of the flour are driven into the air and lost."

ORIGIN OF THE CORONER'S JURY.—A lady in London having buried six husbands, united herself to the seventh. For months the newly-married couple lived happily together, the lady frequently declaring that at last she had met with a good husband, all her former ones having disgusted her with their drunkenness. To ascertain her real character, her seventh mate pretended drunkenness, which provoked reproaches and menaces. He returned home another evening apparently very drunk, and, having gone to bed, affected to be asleep. While he was in that state the wife took from her gown sleeve a piece of lead, which she melted, and then, approaching her husband, attempted, by means of a pipe, to pour it into his ear. He instantly started up, seized and accused her with the crime, which she could not deny. The bodies of her six husbands were disinterred, when it was discovered that they all died by the same means. She was hung, amidst the execrations of the people. To this wholesale tragedy we are indebted to the law which forbids the interment of a body without a proper certificate of the nature of the disease which caused death. Until lately a personal inspection by searchers was requisite; and to this fact also is the origin of coroner's inquests attributed.

FRENCH COURT DRESS.—A feuilleton of the *Epoque*, in giving an account of a ball given by his Royal Highness the Duke de Nemours, writes—"For the first time all the gentlemen wore white cravats, white knee breeches, white silk stockings, a French full dress coat, buckles in their shoes, and the *claque*, or flat cocked hat—in short, it was the fashion of the last century revived in the year 1847. Amidst this ocean of embroidery one single guest made his appearance in a black coat and pantaloons, wearing also the democratic black cravat. This was M. Thiers, who made his apologies to his host, saying, 'I hope you will pardon me for presenting myself to your Royal Highness in this costume, but it is that in which the King has always deigned to receive me when he has been pleased to admit me into his presence, and I should have feared that I was failing in what I owe to his Majesty if I had worn any other on coming to your Royal Highness.'"

THE SCOURING OF A PROFESSOR.—I should say that this is not by any means so strong a fact as some that are reported about many a continental professor. Mrs. Cl—nt, with the twofold neatness of an Englishwoman and a Quaker, told me that, on visiting Pestalozzi, the celebrated education professor, at Yverdon, about 1820, her first impression, from a distant view of his dilapidated premises, was profound horror at the griminess of his complexion, which struck her as no complexion formed by nature, but as a deposition from half a century of atmospheric rust—a most ancient *arrigo*. She insisted on a radical purification, as a *sine qua non* towards any interview with herself. The meek professor consented. Mrs. Cl. hired a stout Swiss charwoman, used to the scouring of staircases, kitchen floors, &c. The professor, whom, on this occasion, one may call "the prisoner," was accommodated with a seat (as prisoners at the bar sometimes are with us) in the centre of a mighty washing-tub, and then scouring through a long summer forenoon, by the strength of a brawny Helvetian arm. "And now, my dear friend," said Mrs. Cl. to myself, "is it thy opinion that this was cruel? Some people say it was; and I wish to disguise nothing;—it was not mere soap that I had him scouring with, but soap and sand; so, say honestly, dost thee call that cruel?" Laughing no more than the frailty of my human nature compelled me, I replied, "Far from it; on the contrary, everybody must be charmed with her consideration for the professor, in not having him cleansed on the same principles as her carriage, viz., taken to the stable-yard, mopped severely," ["mopped, dost thee say?" she exclaimed; "No, no," I said, "not mopped, but mopped, until the gravel should be all gone,"] "then pelted with buckets of water by firemen, and, finally, curry-combed and rubbed down by two grooms, keeping up a sharp *susurrus* between them, so as to soothe his wounded feelings; after all which, a feed of oats might not have been amiss." The result, however, of this scouring extraordinary was probably as fatal as to Mambri's helmet in Don Quixote. Pestalozzi issued, indeed, from the washing-tub like Aeson from Medea's kettle; he took his station amongst a younger and fairer generation; and the dispute was now settled whether he belonged to the Caucasian or Mongolian race. But his intellect was thought to have suffered seriously. The tarnish of fifty or sixty years seem to have acquired powers of reacting as a stimulant upon the professor's fancy, through the *rete mucosum*, or through—heaven knows what. He was too old to be converted to cleanliness; the Paganism of a neglected person at seventy becomes a sort of religion interwoven with the nervous system—just as the well-known *Plica Polonica*, from which the French armies suffered so much in Poland during 1807-8, though produced by neglect of the hair, will not be cured by extirpation of the hair. The hair becomes matted into Medusa locks, or what look like snakes; and to cut these off is oftentimes to cause nervous frenzy, or other great constitutional disturbance. I never heard, indeed, that Pestalozzi suffered apoplexy from his scouring; but certainly his ideas on education grew bewildered, and wi

be found essentially damaged after that great epoch—his baptism by water and sand.—*De Quincy, in Tatler's Magazine*.

DISTRESS IN MANCHESTER.—Perhaps at no period within the remembrance of the oldest inhabitant have distress and privation pressed more heavily on the working classes than at the present moment. The streets are crowded with paupers, most of them Irish, who have travelled to Manchester from Liverpool, in the hope either of obtaining employment, or sharing with others from the public bounty of the town. A soup-kitchen has been established, from which are distributed daily some 6,000 quarts of nutritious soup, with 1,000 loaves of bread. It is remarkable that of the recipients of this charity 9-10ths are Irish people. The operative classes employed in the mills and manufactories (most of whom are working short time) seem to shrink from an application for charity, and prefer existence on the limited means derived from their labour.

MR. WILLIAM MACNAB, late pastor of the Congregational church assembling at Falkirk, Scotland, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the church worshipping at Trinity Chapel, Sudbury, Suffolk, to take the pastoral oversight of them as a church, and will enter on his duties the 21st inst.

MR. B. B. CABELL.—Now that the petition against the return of Mr. Cabell, for St. Albans, has been withdrawn, the hon. member will, it is said, bring before the House of Commons, in the shape of a bill, his measure for doing away with the New Poor-law, to which we have more than once referred.

WESTMINSTER ELECTION.—On Monday evening, a meeting of the friends and supporters of Mr. Charles Lushington was held at the Crown and Anchor tavern, Strand, when resolutions, approving of him as a candidate for the city of Westminster, and appointing a committee to carry out the object, were unanimously adopted. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Parkes (the chairman), Gresin, Prout, Lewis, and Austin. Mr. Prout said that Mr. Lushington would support vote by ballot, an extension of the suffrage, a repeal of the rate-paying clauses of the Reform Act, triennial Parliaments, municipal reform, a repeal of the window and corn taxes, all taxes on knowledge, the abolition of unmerited pensions, a reform of the church, and the proper application of the funds known to exist in the country for the purposes of education.

ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIEF.—A bill "for the further Repeal of Enactments imposing Pains and Penalties upon her Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects on account of their Religion," has been prepared and brought in by Mr. Watson, Lord J. Manners, and Mr. Escott. It proposes to repeal the acts, 1 Elizabeth, cap. 1; the 13th Elizabeth, cap. 2; the 13th and 14th Charles II., cap. 4; the 25th Charles II., cap. 2; the 30th Charles II., s. 2, cap. 1; the 7th and 8th William III., cap. 24; the 31st George III., cap. 32; and the 10th George IV., cap. 7, or parts thereof. The repeal of certain portions of these latter acts would go to allow Popish priests to officiate in churches with steeples and bells, now prohibited, and to wear the habits of their order elsewhere than in the usual places of worship of the Popish religion, and likewise remove the prohibitions and discouragements at present in force against the secret society of Jesuits.

GRATIFYING INTELLIGENCE FROM MADAGASCAR.—The following intelligence from Madagascar (says the *Missionary Magazine* for February), forwarded by Rev. J. Le Brun, of Mauritius, in October last, will not fail to awaken the devout thanksgivings of the friends of missions:—

The Christians, though still persecuted, are daily increasing in number. There has been of late a great awakening among them; and there are more than one hundred new converts. Among the number is the Prince Royal, presumptive heir to the throne, and only son of Ranavalona. There is yet in this young prince a little of the spirit of Nicodemus; but he joins with the Christians for prayer and reading the Bible. The Queen had given orders to apprehend all the Christians, and twenty-one of them were condemned to death, when the young Prince stepped forward to defend them; he succeeded so far, that only nine of the twenty-one were obliged to take the *tangena*, and one of them, I regret to say, died in consequence. The rest were reduced to slavery, but were immediately redeemed by their friends. It is rumoured that the Prince contributed liberally to their redemption.

BIRTHS.

Feb. 8, at Witheridge, Devon, the wife of Mr. W. O'NEILL, minister, of a son.
Feb. 9, at Dumpton-hall, Ramsgate, the wife of Mr. MONTLOCK DANIELL, of Birmingham, Baptist minister, of a daughter.
Feb. 11, at 185, Piccadilly, Mrs. JAMES ADENEY, of a son.
Feb. 13, at Leighton Buzzard, Beds, Mrs. C. B. SELL, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Feb. 8, at the Independent chapel, Winchester, by the pastor, Mr. W. THORN, Mr. ENGLEFIELD, to Miss HISCOCK, both of that city. This was the 18th marriage in the above place of worship.
Feb. 8, at Hope Chapel, Sandbach, Cheshire, by Mr. J. Moss, minister, Mr. SAMUEL WALKER to Mrs. HANNAH COOKE, both of the same place.
Feb. 9, at Hope Chapel, Sandbach, Cheshire, by Mr. J. Moss, Mr. ROBERT CLARKE, of Daventry, to Mrs. FRANCES EATON, of Sandbach.
Feb. 9, at the Independent chapel, Aston, Berks, by Mr. William Fernie, of Frome, Somerset, Mr. JOHN TINDALE, of Needham-market, minister, to ANNE, second daughter of Mr. William LANGFORD, of Aston.
Feb. 9, at Forden, Montgomeryshire, Mr. EDWARD SANKEY, of Rorington-hall, Shropshire, to Miss WILLIAMS, Llwyndith, in the former county.
Feb. 10, at Bath, by the pastor, Mr. W. Jay, Dr. HOBSON, medical missionary, to MARY REBECCA MORRISON, eldest daughter of the late Dr. Morrison, father of the Protestant mission to China.
Feb. 10, at the Independent Chapel, St. Helen's, by Mr. Brewin Grant, minister, Mr. ROBERT MONCRIEFF, of Prescott, to Miss ROUGHEDGE, of St. Helen's.
Feb. 11, at the Independent Chapel, Newark, by the pastor, Mr. H. L. Adams, Mr. HENRY BIRKE, of King-street, to Miss JANN KEY, of Regent-street.
Feb. 11, at the Independent Chapel, Newark, by Mr. H. L. Adams, Mr. GEORGE SEWARD to Miss BRIGGS.
Feb. 11, at the Independent Chapel, Yardley, Hastings, by Mr. William Todman, minister, Mr. JONATHAN WHITING, to ELIZA, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas BURGE.
Feb. 12, at the Independent Chapel, Tisbury, by Mr. A. Tyler, minister, JOHN HIBBERD to ANN MOULD, both of the same place.

DEATHS.

Jan. 6, Mr. REES DAVIES, of Saron, Carmarthenshire, in the 75th year of his age. He laboured as an Independent preacher for fifty

years, but was never ordained. Notwithstanding his unseemly delivery, he was the means of doing much good. It was under his ministry that the late Williams, of Wern, was converted.

Jan. 22, at Walsoken, near Wisbech, aged 77 years, Mrs. H. SMITHIE, mother-in-law of Mr. J. Peggs, Baptist minister, Burton-on-Trent.

Feb. 3, at his father's house, at Titchfield, Mr. W. FLOWER, missionary at Surat and Baroda, after residing in India seven years. His heart was in the work, and his end perfect peace.

Feb. 6, in the 17th year of his age, WILLIAM, the second son of Mr. John ALEXANDER, Independent minister, Norwich.

Feb. 7, at 2, York-terrace, Sydenham, aged five months, ARTHUR EDGELL, the infant son of Mr. C. J. HYATT, minister, Shadwell.

Feb. 7, at Porth Cawl, Glamorganshire, of pulmonary consumption, aged 24, Mr. SAMUEL HAYCROFT, brother of Mr. Nathaniel Haycroft, minister, Saffron Walden, Essex. His end was peace.

Feb. 8, aged 52, Mrs. MARY ALLSOPP, of Wisbech, Cambridge-shire, widow of Mr. John Allsop, late General Baptist Missionary in Jamaica, and sister-in-law of Mr. James Peggs, of Burton-on-Trent, and lately a missionary in India.

Feb. 9, at Bushey, Herts, Mrs. HAWKINS.

Feb. 12, ELEANOR DAWSON, eldest daughter of Thomas RYLEY, Esq., Sicklefield, Wigan, aged 3 years.

Feb. 13, aged 86, at the house of her son-in-law, Mr. W. Lepard Smith, Denmark-hill, RACHAEL, relict of Thomas Ware COOPER, Esq., of Kidderminster.

Feb. 13, early in the morning, at the house of his son, 32, Red Lion-square, SHAMON TURNER, of Winchmore-hill, Middlesex, in his 79th year.

Lately, Mr. MORGAN LEWIS, Independent minister, Glynneth, Glamorganshire, in the 86th year of his age. He laboured in the ministry with acceptance and success for the space of forty-nine years. His end was peace.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, February 12.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Grantham.

BANKRUPTCY SUPPLEMENT.

MOORE, JOSEPH, Camden-town, builder.

BANKRUPTS.

BENTLEY, STEPHEN, innkeeper, Birkenhead, Feb. 19, March 19: solicitors, Messrs. Cornthwaite and Co., Old Jewry-chambers, London; and Mr. Pemberton, Liverpool.

BOND, JOHN, and MORGAN, EDWARD, Oxford-street, shawl manufacturers, Feb. 20, March 26: solicitor, Mr. Lloyd, Milk-street.

BROMLY, BENJAMIN, Great Bromley, Essex, dealer in cattle, Feb. 23, March 26: solicitors, Messrs. Wire and Child, St. Swinith's-lane.

CLARKE, JOHN, Great Castle-street, Regent-street, painter, Feb. 26, March 26: solicitors, Messrs. Cooke and Co., Bedford-row.

HATCH, FREDERICK, St. John-square, Clerkenwell, iron plate worker, Feb. 24, April 1: solicitor, Mr. Richardson, Coleman-street.

FURLONG, RICHARD VINCENT, Cheltenham, wine merchant, Feb. 26, March 26: solicitor, Mr. Cheshyre, Cheltenham.

GILBERT, THOMAS, Gutter-lane, Cheapside, warehouseman, Feb. 18, March 25: solicitor, Mr. Teague, Crown-court, Cheapside.

GRIFF, ROBERT, and RAWLINGS, WILLIAM, Maiden-lane, King's-cross, timber merchants, February 24, April 1: solicitor, Mr. Wootton, Tokenhouse-yard.

HOPKINS, FRANCIS, Cambridge, brewer, Feb. 25, March 25: solicitors, Mr. Ravenscroft, Guildford-street; and Mr. Cooper, Cambridge.

LOVETT, WILLIAM, and LOVETT, GEORGE WOOLLARD, Barrack-street, Cambridge-heath, Hackney, builders, Feb. 26, March 26: solicitors, Messrs. Overton and Co., Old Jewry.

MONK, JAMES, Manchester, merchant, Feb. 25, March 25: solicitors, Messrs. Reed and Langford, Friday-street, Cheapside, London; and Messrs. Sale and Co., Manchester.

PAYNE, GEORGE DAVID, Saville-row, Regent-street, tailor, Feb. 25, March 20: solicitor, Mr. Hensman, Basing-lane.

ROUSE, JOHN, Exeter, plumber, Feb. 22, March 16: solicitors, Mr. J. H. Terrell, Exeter; and Mr. R. H. Terrell, Gray's Inn-square, London.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

CAMERON, JOHN, Tain, merchant, Feb. 18, March 11.

DIVIDENDS.

Chambers and Son, New Bond-street, bankers, second div. of 3s. 4d.; at 12, Abchurch-lane, Feb. 17, and three subsequent Saturdays—Henry James Palmer, Wantage, grocer, first div. of 20s.; at 13, Old Jewry, City, Feb. 17, and following Wednesday—Melchor Lopez, late of Fenchurch-street, wine merchant, first div. of 6d.; at 13, Old Jewry, City, Feb. 17, and following Wednesday—Charles Burrows, East Stonehouse, Devonshire, brewer, first div. of 16s. 6d.; at Paul-street, Exeter, on and after the 14th instant—Whitmore, Wells, and Whitmore, Lombard, City, bankers, div. of 10d.; at 9, King's Arms-yard, Moorgate-street, any Thursday—Prescott Corless, Wigan, grocer, first div. of 10s.; at 1, Liver-court, South Castle-street, Liverpool, Feb. 13, or any subsequent Monday—Ralph Mansfield, Liverpool, coal dealer, first div. of 11d.; at 1, Liver-court, South Castle-street, Liverpool, Feb. 13, or any subsequent Monday—James Henderson, Park-gate, major in the army, first div. of 3s. 2d.; at 1, Liver-court, South Castle-street, Liverpool, Feb. 13, or any subsequent Monday—Henry Hutchinson, Liverpool, merchant, first div. of 9d.; at 1, Liver-court, South Castle-street, Liverpool, Feb. 13, or any subsequent Monday—Patrick Hare, Liverpool, tallow-chandler, first div. of 2s. 6d.; at 1, Liver-court, South Castle-street, Liverpool, Feb. 13, or any subsequent Monday—David Davies, sen., and David Davies, jun., Glanelywedog, Montgomeryshire, flannel manufacturers, first div. of 9d.; also first div. of 7s. 1d. on the separate estate of David Davies, sen.; at 12, Cook-street, Liverpool, Feb. 17, or any subsequent Wednesday—Thomas Rees, Liverpool, ale and porter brewer, second div. of 2d. and 7-16ths of a penny, and 2s. 9d. on new profits; at 12, Cook-street, Liverpool, Feb. 17, or any subsequent Wednesday—Jonathan Constantine, Salford, bookkeeper, first div. of 1s. 9d.; at 72, George-street, Manchester, Feb. 16, or any subsequent Tuesday—Thompson and Mellis, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchants, second div. of 1d. in addition to 9d. previously declared; at 57, Grey-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, any Saturday.

Tuesday, Feb. 16th.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Dartmouth Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Townstal.

BANKRUPTS.

ALLISON, JOSEPH, Penrith, bookseller, Feb. 22, March 23: solicitors, Messrs. Atkinson and Harrison, Penrith; and Messrs. Preston and Browne, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

BROWN, THOMAS N., East Stonehouse, leather dealer, March 3 and 21: solicitors, Messrs. Beer and Rundle, Devonport; Mr. W. J. Penkivil, Finsbury-circus, London; and Mr. J. Stogdon, Exeter.

PROCTOR, CHARLES, Witham, Essex, wine merchant, Feb. 25, March 20: solicitors, Messrs. Blood and Douglas, Witham; and Messrs. Vallance and Vallance, 20, Essex-street, Strand, London.

LLRWELYN, JENKIN H., 369, Strand, surgeon, Feb. 25, March 20: solicitor, Mr. Noyes, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

LAYT, ROBERT, Hingham, Norfolk, spirit merchant, Feb. 26, April 9: solicitors, Messrs. Trehere and Co., Barge-yard-chambers.

HUNTER, HENRY, late of 1, Old-street, confectioner, March 4, March 30: solicitor, Mr. J. C. Foudrinier, 1, Scott's-yard, Bush-lane, Cannon-street.

ROCHAT, JULES, otherwise ROCHAT, JULES SAMUEL, late of 2, Cornhill-crescent, Camden-town, but now of 29, St. Martin's-lane, jeweller, Feb. 26 and March 29: solicitors, Messrs. Edward and Peake, New Palace-yard.

SMITH, JONATHAN, Gloucester, innkeeper, March 2 and 30: solicitors, Messrs. Jones and Co., Crosby-square, London; Mr. C. Smallbridge, Gloucester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

TEMPLETON, FULTON, and Co., Dromore, distillers, Feb. 19 and March 12.

HOLMES, JAMES, Paisley, grocer, Feb. 22 and March 12.

M'LEAN, WILLIAM, Abbotshauigh, wool-merchant, Feb. 23 and March 16.

DIVIDENDS.

Mary Snelson, late of Seaman's and Swallow's Farm, Nethurst, Sussex, a div. of 6s. 9d.; at Mr. Johnston's, solicitor, 100, Chancery-lane, on and after the 18th inst.—Benjamin Bushell King, of Fish-street-hill, City, stationer, div. of 1d.; at 9, King's Arms-yard, Moorgate-street, Feb. 18, and three following Thursdays—John Ryle, late of Macclesfield, banker, further div. of 1s. 8d.; at 7, Charlotte-street, Manchester, March 3, and any subsequent Wednesday—Luke Palfreyman, Sheffield, scrivener, second div. of 1s., and 5s. 6d. on new profits; at 52, Queen-street, Sheffield, any Friday—Thomas Wilson, Sheffield, grocer, first div. of 2s. 6d.; at 52, Queen-street, Sheffield, any Friday—Jas. Chas. Simpson, Sheffield, pawnbroker, first div. of 2s.; at 52, Queen-st., Sheffield, any Friday—Michael Casanas, Fenchurch-street, wine merchant, div. of 1d.; at 9, King's Arms-yard, Moorgate-street, Feb. 18, and three following Thursdays—Robert Francis Barber, 169, Bishopsgate-street Without, victualler, first div. of 2s.; at 12, Birch-lane, Feb. 22, and two following Mondays—James Harris, Leadenhall-street, butcher, first div. of 2s.; at 12, Birch-lane, Feb. 22, and two following Mondays—John Kirkup, Rotherhithe, coal merchant, first div. of 8d.; at 12, Birch-lane, Feb. 22, and two following Mondays—Frederick Jones, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, apothecary, first div. of 3s. 6d.; at 12, Birch-lane, Feb. 22, and two following Mondays—Henry Morgan Godwin and Charles Lee, Bishopsgate-street Within, shipowners, sec. div. of 9d.; at 12, Birch-lane, Feb. 22 and two following Mondays—William Chambers, Southwick, Durham, shipwright, first div. of 1s.; at 111, Pilgrim-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, any Saturday—Alfred Johnson, South Shields, printer, first div. of 5s. 9d.; 111, Pilgrim-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, any Saturday—John Payne, Bristol, millwright, div. of 1s. 6d.; at 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol, any Wednesday—Henry Hole, Bath, tailor, first div. of 2s. 5d.; at 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol, any Wednesday—Diana Fleming, Bristol, grocer, first div. of 1d.; at 19, St. Augustine's-place, Bristol, any Wednesday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 percent Consols ..	90½	90½	90½	90½	91	90½
4 percent Consols ..	90½	90½	90½	90½	91	90½
5 percent Consols ..	90½	90½	90½	90½	91	90½
New 3½ percent ..	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Long Annuities ..	94	94	94	94	94	94
Bank Stock ..	204	203½	204	203½	—	204
India Stock ..	251	—	—	—	—	249½
Exchequer Bills ..	7pm	7pm	6pm	6pm	6pm	7pm
India Bonds ..	—	10	12	14	—	14

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian ..	98	Mexican ..	21½
Brazilian ..	86	Peruvian ..	39½
Buenos Ayres ..	43½	Portuguese 5 per cents ..	81
Columbian ..	16	Ditto converted ..	33
Danish ..	86½	Russian ..	112
Dutch 2½ per cents ..	56½	Spanish Active ..	23½
Ditto 4 per cents ..	90	Ditto Passive ..	47
French 3 per cents ..	77½	Ditto Deferred ..	17½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester ..	129	London & Croydon Trunk ..	21½
Blackwall ..	84	London and Greenwich ..	9½
Bristol and Exeter ..	75½	Manchester and Leeds ..	111
Eastern Counties ..	21	Midland Counties ..	120½
Eastern Union ..	52	Ditto New Shares ..	35½
Edinburgh and Glasgow ..	77	Manchester and Birming ..	95½
Great North of England ..	236½	Midland and Derby ..	95½
Great Western ..	124½	Norfolk ..	127½
Ditto Half ..	72	North British ..	34½
Ditto Fifths ..	29	South Eastern and Dover ..	37
London & North-Western ..	189	South Western ..	64
Ditto Quarter Shares ..	21	York and Newcastle ..	37½
London and Brighton ..	64	York and North Midland ..	90

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Feb. 15.

The supply of wheat from Essex this morning was moderate, that from Kent large. The greater proportion was taken for shipment at a rise of 4s. to 5s. per qr. On that left over and sold to the millers not more than 2s. to 3s. per qr. advance on the prices of this day se'night could be realized. Foreign met a moderate sale at about 2s. per qr. higher rates. Fine barley realized 1s. to 2s. per qr. more money. Other qualities are unaltered. Beans are a heavy sale, and the turn cheaper. Peas of all sorts support our late quotations. Oats are difficult of disposal. Barrel flour is held 2s. higher, but the advance restricts business. Maize, near at hand, is much inquired after.

Wheat, Red ..	72 to 76	Peas, Hog ..	52 .. 54
New ..	75 .. 78	Maple ..	53 .. 55
White ..	75 .. 84	Boilers ..	55 .. 60
New ..	80 .. 85	Beans, Ticks ..	45 .. 50
Flour, per sack (Town) ..	60 .. 65	Pigeon ..	50 to 54
Barley ..	45 .. 48	Harrow ..	46 .. 47
Malt ..	55 .. 58	Oats, Feed ..	37 .. 39
Malt, Ordinary ..	71 to 73	Fine ..	37 .. 39
Pale ..	76 .. 79	Poland ..	— .. —
Rye ..	48 .. 58	Potato ..	37 .. 39½

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR JAN. 30.

Wheat ..	73s. 10d.	Wheat ..	70s. 7d.
Barley ..	53 5	Barley ..	50 9
Oats ..	33 0	Oats ..	30 2
Rye ..	55 9	Rye ..	51 1
Beans ..	54 3	Beans ..	50 0
Peas ..	57 1	Peas ..	53 9

AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.

Wheat ..	70s. 7d.	Wheat ..	70s. 7d.
Barley ..	50 9	Barley ..	50 9
Oats ..	30 2	Oats ..	30 2
Rye ..	51 1	Rye ..	51 1
Beans ..	50 0	Beans ..	50 0
Peas ..	53 9	Peas ..	53 9

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Feb. 15.

Owing to the change in the weather, and the absence of the principal country buyers, the beef trade was exceedingly dull, at a decline in the quotations obtained on Monday last of quite 2d. per 8lbs. The extreme figure for the best Scotch, and which was paid in very few instances, was 4s. 4d. per 8lbs., and a clearance was not effected. With sheep we were very scantily supplied, and the quality of that description of stock was by no means first-rate. All kinds moved off slowly, and last week's prices were with difficulty supported. The number of calves was small; yet the veal trade was in a very sluggish state, at an abatement in value of 2d. per 8lbs. In pigs, comparatively little business was transacted, at late rates.

Price per stone of 14lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef ..	3s. 2d. to 4s. 4d.	Veal ..	4d. to 5s. 2d.
Mutton ..	3 6 .. 5 0	Pork ..	3 8 .. 4 10

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday ..	829	2,260	249	290
Monday ..	3,354	18,770	97	315

NEWCASTLE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Feb. 15.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

Inferior Beef 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.	Inf. Mutton 3s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.
Middling do 2 10 .. 3 0	Mid. ditto 3 10 .. 4 0
Prime large 3 2 .. 3 4	Prime ditto 4 2 .. 4 4
Prime small 3 6 .. 3 8	Veal 4 4 .. 5 2
Large Pork 3 6 .. 4 6	Small Pork 4 8 .. 4 10

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—The seed trade still remains quiet, but we may now calculate on a better demand for clover, as the frost has at length left us. The little business done to-day was on much the same terms as before. Canaryseed was easier to buy. Linseed and Rapeseed were fully as dear as on Monday last. In other articles no change requiring notice occurred.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.—With no material change in the position of our market, we had during last week a steadier demand for Irish butter, and sale to a respectable extent effected at fully late rates, and in partial instances rather more money for the finer descriptions. Foreign.—Business to some extent was done in all kinds, at an advance of 2s. to 6s. per cwt., according to quality.

For English butter the demand continues dull. Bacon:—Lined sides were limitedly sought after, and the sales of such comparatively trifling. Prices nominally as last quoted. Bale and tierce middles and hams not altered in value or demand. Lard sold slowly, and late prices not well supported. In cheese there has during the past week been a little more business doing, the factors having in most instances submitted to a reduction. The American is taking the lead in all directions.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 10½d.; of household loaf, 8d. to 9½d. per 4lbs loaf.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The imports of wool into London last week were 1,697 bales, of which 1,594 bales were from Islay, fifty-eight from the Cape of Good Hope, and thirty-five from Antwerp. The market is quiet, as the public sales commence on the 18th, when from 10,000 to 12,000 bales of colonial and foreign are expected to be offered. Leeds, Feb. 12: we have no change to report in the foreign wool market this week. It is expected prices will range full higher at the approaching London sales, the quantity to be offered being but small. The trade in British wool has been without any change this week, either in demand or prices.

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, Saturday.—The cotton market was steady in the beginning of this week, but during the last few days it has become exceedingly heavy, and closes at a decline of ½d. per lb. from last week's quotations of American. Egyptian is in limited demand from the trade, but attracts the attention of exporters; a decline of ½d. to ¾d. per lb. having, in several instances, been submitted to. Brazil is in moderate demand, and Pernambuco and Bahia are heavy of sale, while Maranhão is less freely offered, and rather more saleable. Surat is not much pressed on the market, but may, in some instances, be quoted ½d. per lb. lower. The sales of the week amount to 19,860 bales, including 8,000 American on speculation, and 350 American and 850 Egyptian for export.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 15.—The transactions in our market have not been very extensive during the past week; but hops of all descriptions fully maintain their previous currency. Sussex pockets, 78s. to 85s.; Wexley of Kent, 84s. to 95s.; Mid. and East Kents, 92s. to 130s. Choice samples higher.

TALLOW, LONDON, Feb. 15.—On the whole the market may be called inactive, yet we can report no material alteration in prices. The recent quotations for P. Y. C. on the spot is 50s. per cwt. For forward delivery very few contracts have been entered into. Town tallow, the supply of which is by no means large, is 50s. net cash.

HIDES, LEADENHALL.—Market hides, 64lb. to 72lb., 3d. to 3½d. per lb.; ditto, 72lb. to 80lb., 3½d. to 3¾d.; ditto, 80lb. to 88lb., 3¾d. to 4d.; ditto, 88lb. to 96lb., 4d. to 5d.; ditto, 96lb. to 104lb., 5d. to 6d.; Calf-skins, each, 4s. 6d. to 6s. 9d.; Horse hides, 13s.; Lambs, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 10d.; Shearings, 1s. 6d. to 2s.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Feb. 13.—At per load of 36 trusses. Meadow .. 45s. to 75s. Oat Straw .. 30s. .. 34s. Clover Hay .. 65s. to 95s. Wheat Straw .. 00s. .. 00s.

COAL EXCHANGE, Feb. 12.

Stewart's, 23s. 3d.; Hetton's, 23s. 3d.; Braddyl's Hetton's, 23s. 6d.; Lambton's, 23s. 0d.; West Hartley's, 17s. 0d. Ships arrived this week, 744.

GROCERIES, LONDON, Tuesday, Feb. 16.

COFFEE.—200 bales Mocha, middling quality, offered in auction were withdrawn at 63s. per cwt. 2,000 bags Ceylon, in auction, sold at a decline of 1s. to 2s. per cwt. Plantation, low good ordinary, 42s. to 44s.; good ordinary, 41s. to 49s.; fine ordinary, 51s. to 55s.; good ordinary native, 40s. to 41s.; low, 38s. to 39s. per cwt.

SUGAR.—The trade bought 250 hhds. and tierces at Friday's rates. The refined market is very dull. Standard lumps are offered at 65s. 6d. to 66s., and brown grocery at 61s. 6d. to 65s. per cwt. 7,000 bags Mauritius, offered in auction, sold at a decline of 6d. to 1s. per cwt.; low to good middling yellow, 47s. 6d. to 50s. 6d.; good and fine, 51s. to 51s. 6d., good and fine brown, 45s. to 45s. 6d., low to good grey, 46s. to 51s. per cwt.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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J. B., per Rev. Dr. Carlile	3	0	0
Mr. Ellis, Anglesea	1	0	0
Rev. J. Raban	10	0	0
Rev. D. Davie, near Carmarthen	1	5	0
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Rev. H. Harrison, Hackney	3	0	0
Mill Hall, Poplar	2	12	6
Rev. Wm. Hordle and Friends, Harwich	14	17	6
Rev. R. Gill and Friends, Baldock, first Sacramental Collection	1	8	6
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Rev. R. Wilson and Friends, Cokermouth	7	9	0
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Rev. R. Deane and Friends, Guestwick	25	0	6
Rev. James Cheney and Friends, Broadwindsor	2	2	0
Collection at New-court Chapel, Carey-street	14	15	0

Received at the *Patriot* Office—

Rev. W. Easterbrook and Friends, Brixham, Devon	2	10	0
Rev. John Raine and Friends, Horsley-on-Tyne	5	0	0
The proceeds of Two Collections at the Independent Chapel, Tattenhall, near Chester	8	0	2
Rev. J. Chapman and Friends, Wells, Somerset	5	16	8
Moiety of Collection at Rev. J. Gray's, Chelmsford	12	0	0
Moiety of Collection at Rev. J. Birch's, Fordingbridge	3	13	6
Per Rev. David Richardson, Ashwell, near Baldock, Herts.—			
Sacramental Collection for the poor members of churches	£1	3	0
For general distribution	1	13	0
	2	16	0
Rev. H. Lings, Acerrington:—			
For general distribution	£1	9	2
For poor church members	1	3	10
	2	13	0
Friends at Doward Chapel, Whitechurch, Herefordshire, moiety	1	16	10
Rev. Jessie Hopwood and Friends, Lutterworth	18	0	0
Rev. J. Dickinson and Friends, Hounslow, moiety	3	0	0
Rev. J. H. Price and Friends, Woodham Ferris	5	7	4
Rev. W. Christie and Friends, Fritchley, near Alfreton	9	14	1
W. F., Homerton College	1	0	0
Amount of Sacramental Collection at Clitheroe, per Rev. J. Wadsworth	2	14	0
Rev. J. Parsons and Friends, Brierley-hill, Stafford, moiety	3	9	0
Rev. J. Cousins and Friends, Portsea	70	0	7

JEROME CLAPP, Treasurer.

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Butter Coolers	Mugs for Christening Presents
Bottle Stands, in great variety	Mustard Pots
Cake Baskets, of the Newest Fashions	Pickle Frames
Card Baskets	Salts, gilt inside
Candlesticks, Table	Soy Frames
" Chamber	Soufflers and Trays
" Piano-forte	Soup and Sauce Tureens
Cruet Frames and Glasses	Spoons and Forks, very various
Communion Plate	Table Dishes
Cutlery, with Silver and Plated Handles	Table Candlesticks, with Shades
Dessert Fruit Knives and Forks	Tea Caddies
Dish Covers	Tea and Coffee Equipages
Plate Covers	Tea Trays
Egg Frames	Tea Kettles, with Stands
Epergnes	Tea Urns
Hash Dishes and Warmers	Toast Racks
Ice-pails	Venison Dishes
Inkstands	Vegetable Dishes
Liqueur Frames and Glasses	Walters, a large assortment
Meat Dishes	Wine Coolers
	" Funnels

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Threaded " Victoria " National "
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IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE STARVING POOR IN IRELAND.

THE COMMITTEE acknowledge, with great thankfulness, the liberal contributions remitted to them to mitigate the appalling distress which still deepens and spreads in our ill-fated sister country. They have two deputations now visiting the distressed districts, one in the north and west, the other in the south. The statements transmitted by the Agents of the Society, from every part of the country, are of the most affecting description. There is little hope that the calamity will abate. Months must elapse before any supplies can be derived from the soil. It is therefore for British Christians to persevere in the course of benevolence they have so nobly commenced, if they would save alive those who are literally "ready to perish."

THOMAS JAMES, Secretary.

Blomfield-street, February 15, 1847.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already Advertised	4,498	0	6
Rev. J. Saunders and Friends, Latimer Chapel, Bow	18	9	2
Rev. J. V. Mummery, Queen-street Chapel, Ratcliffe, Sacramental Collection	5	5	0
Rev. J. Gray and Friends, Chelmsford, moiety of Collection	12	0	0
A. Z., Cheapside	10	0	0
Mr. John Smith, Highworth	1	0	0
Rev. W. Campbell, Croydon, part of Collection	9	8	6
The Downs Congregational Chapel, Altricham, per Mr. J. Walker	16	8	9
Rev. J. Evans and Friends, Weedon	3	3	6
Rev. J. Ely and Friends, Leeds, part of Collection	40	0	0
Mr. S. Wilson, Bear-street, Leicester-square	0	5	0
Rev. S. Eldridge and Friends:—			
Contributions	£14	13	2
Sacramental Collection	8	9	6
Per Rev. J. Eldridge	5	0	0
	28	2	8

Rev. A. Stewart and Friends, Barnet	6	11	8
A few Friends at Spalding, by Mr. William Hobson	4	6	0
Rev. George Smith, Poplar	42	12	0
Rev. R. Luckin and Friends, Woodbridge Chapel, Clerkenwell	£15	19	0
B. Riley, Esq., Woodford	20	8	0
W. Kendle, Esq., Cheapside	5	0	0
A Journeyman, on behalf of his fellow-countrymen	0	10	0
	41	9	0

Rev. J. Burnet and Friends, Camberwell, two-thirds of Collection	184	0	0
Rev. W. Roaf and Friends, Wigan	26	18	0
Mr. Payne's Family and Pupils, the Mansion, Leatherhead	6	12	0
Rev. S. S. England, Royston, Sacramental Collection	10	0	0
Rev. W. Garthwaite and Friends, Watfield	17	6	1
Rev. H. Toller and Friends, Market Harborough, one-third of Collection	15	1	1
Rev. T. Rawson and Friends, Sandwich	5	0	0
A Friend at Deal, in postage-stamps	0	5	0
Rev. J. Davis and Friends, Denton	14	6	6
Rev. W. E. Farrett and Friends, Milton	5	0	0

A Friend who sympathizes with the poor Irish, stamps, Bristol	0	5	0
Rev. J. T. Beighton and Friends, Bideford	20	0	0
Rev. C. Berry and Friends, Hatfield-heath	11	15	10
Rev. H. Townley and Friends, Bishopsgate Chapel	53	11	4

A Friend, by Rev. Thomas James	5	0	0
Rev. W. R. Baker and Friends, Portland Chapel, Regent's-park	12	1	0
Rev. T. Weaver, Shrewsbury, part of Collection	5	0	0

Rev. J. Dickinson and Friends, Hounslow, moiety	3	0	0
Rev. J. Young, Albion Chapel (additional)	0	5	0
Rev. Mr. Bowman and Friends, Chelmsford-park	100	0	0

Rev. Dr. Alliot and Friends, York-road, Lambeth	10	14	0
Rev. James Kirkness and Friends, Tawton	5	10	0
Mr. Richard Derry, jun., St. Austell	2	0	0

Rev. J. W. Wilson, Mattishall, Sacramental Collection	4	2	0
Miss Butler, Winghampton, near Wimborne	2	0	0
Rev. Joshua Spencer, Bakewell, Sacramental Collection	1	13	6

Lilo Chapel, near Swansea, by Mr. E. Griffiths	1	19	8
Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire, Independent Congregation, Rev. J. Bearcroft, per Rev. Dr. Radford	6	0	0

Rev. W. Hopkins and Friends, Southwold	4	10	2
Rev. J. Whitby and Friends, Ipswich, (part)	15	0	0
Rev. G. W. E. Brown and Friends, Summers-town, near Oxford	1	5	9

A Few Friends, Buckland, near Dover, by Mr. John Bentley	0	10	0
Tabernacle, Lewes, by Mr. C. Willis, jun.	20	4	0

Loftus, near Gainsborough, per Mr. Alexand. McLean	3	0	0
Rev. R. S. Bayley and Friends, Sheffield	9	0	0
Rev. J. Young, Albion Chapel (additional)	0	10	0

Mr. H. R. Kelsey	0	7	6
Rev. G. B. Johnson, Doncaster	20	0	0
A Friend	1	0	0

Mr. J. D. Piper, Colne, by Rev. T. Craig	10	0	0
Rev. J. Young, Marsh Gibbon, Oxfordshire	1	0	0
Rev. James Burgess and Friends, Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire, including 10s. from Mr. Burgess, jun., School	3	15	1

Rev. Dr. Henderson, Highbury College	3	0	0
Rev. W. Kelsey, Brinklow, near Coventry	1	1	0
Rev. J. E. Isaac and Friends, Stock	5	0	0

Sunday-school Children and Friends, Buckland, near Portsea, Rev. A. Jones	2	8	0
Rev. C. Baker and Friends, Hurstbourne, Turant	2	8	6
Rev. D. Harris, Whitstable, Sacramental Collection	5	0	0

Rev. James Fleming and Friends, Lancaster	30	0	0
Collected at Millington Ropery, H.M. Chapel	£0	16	0
Mr. Hood Haggie, sen.	3	3	0

C. D., per Rev. T. James, for clothing	30	0	0
Friends at Halifax, by Mr. Paterson	5	0	0

FAMILIES THEIR OWN BREWERS.—The

following is the Certificate of Andrew Ure, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., &c.:—"I hereby certify that I have examined the Malt Extract, as also the Pale Malt Extract with Hop for Brewing Beer, and the Brown Malt Extract for Brewing Porter, as recently made at the factory of the British Malt Extract Company, and I find them all to be exceedingly well prepared and perfectly adapted to the purpose of making the above two beverages of the best quality and in the simplest manner."—13, Charlotte-street, Bedford-square, 8th Dec., 1846. These extracts enable private individuals to make fine Home-Brewed Ale and Porter, without employing any Brewing Utensils. It has only to be dissolved in hot water and fermented. Sold in jars for samples and other purposes, at 1s. to 1s. 6d.; and in bottles, for brewing Nine to Eighteen Gallons, and upwards, at 6s. 6d. and 12s. 6d. each, by the BRITISH NATIONAL MALT EXTRACT COMPANY, 7, Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, London; Petty, Wood, and Co., 12, King William-street, City; Wix and Sons, 22, Leadenhall-street; Batty and Co., 15, Finsbury-pavement; De Castro and Peach, 65, Piccadilly; Hockin and Co., 38, Duke-street, Manchester-square; and O'Brien and Grocers generally.

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WHITTINGTON CLUB and METROPOLITAN ATHENÆUM.—The Committee are happy to inform the Members that they have taken Premises at No. 7, Gresham-street, which are being adapted for the purposes of the Club with the utmost rapidity.

WHITTINGTON CLUB and METROPOLITAN ATHENÆUM.—The Entrance Fees for all Members of this Institution proposed on and after the 1st March, 1847, will be increased to One Guinea for Town and Half-a-Guinea for Country Members.
All persons who have been nominated as Members, and have not paid their Entrance Fees, are requested to do so immediately.
Office, 68, Cheapside.

Peace is a great blessing.
War is a deadly scourge.
In Peace there is wisdom.
In War there is folly.

ELECTORS of MEMBERS of PARLIAMENT,
make no choice of any military men! For how can they be expected rightly to judge upon the questions of peace and war?
HUMANITAS.

5th Resolution of the Bristol Anti-war Association, at their Third Anniversary, 1846:—

"That the system practised by Recruiting Parties, in this city and throughout the country, of enticing young men into public-houses, making them intoxicated, and thus inducing them to enlist, demands indignant rebuke and earnest efforts for its suppression from every friend of humanity, justice, or religion."
2nd Month 15th.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the FUND for the CHEAP CIRCULATION AND FREE DISTRIBUTION of MR. BAINES'S LETTERS on STATE EDUCATION will be received by the Committee at the Offices of the *Patriot, Nonconformist*, and *Wesleyan*, or at Messrs. Ward and Co.'s, Paternoster-row.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged.....	28	5	0
W. F. Windett, Esq., Totnes.....	0	10	0
Rev. D. Evans, Narbeth.....	0	10	0
Thomas Nicholson, Esq., Lydney.....	1	1	0
Mr. Paterson, Halifax.....	0	10	0
W. H. Lloyd, Esq., Regent's-park.....	1	0	0
Mr. S. Wride, Hull.....	0	5	0
Mr. S. Wilbe, Hull.....	0	5	0
Messrs. J. Thompson & Son, Manchester.....	3	0	0
William Willans, Esq., Huddersfield.....	2	0	0
George Kemp, Esq., Spital-square.....	1	1	0
George Hadfield, Esq., Manchester.....	2	0	0
John Epps, M.D.....	1	0	0

JOHN CURWEN, Secretary.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.

The Constitution of the Association having provided that a Conference should be convened once in three years, at least, of parties friendly to organized effort for promoting the separation of the Church from the State, the Executive Committee announce that the FIRST TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE will commence its sittings at the LONDON TAVERN, Bishopsgate-street, London, on TUESDAY, the 4th of MAY next, at Ten o'Clock, A.M.

The following persons will be entitled to be present and take part in the proceedings:—

1. Members of the Association.
2. Any two delegates appointed by a meeting, congregational or otherwise, publicly convened, which shall have adopted the fundamental principle of the Society.
3. Any two delegates nominated in writing by one hundred persons, in any city, borough, parish, or township, or in more than one of these united, such parties expressly concurring in the fundamental principle of the Society.

It is requested that the election of all delegates may be communicated to the Secretaries on or before the 31st day of March next, and that each delegate may be furnished by his constituents with the means of defraying a fair proportion of the expenses incurred by holding the Conference.

The following are the terms of the fundamental principle referred to:—

"That in matters of religion man is responsible to God alone; that all legislation by secular governments in affairs of religion is an encroachment upon the rights of man, and an invasion of the prerogatives of God; and that the application by law of the resources of the State to the maintenance of any form or forms of religious worship and instruction, is contrary to reason, hostile to human liberty, and directly opposed to the word of God."

By order of the Executive Committee,
F. A. COX,
E. MIALI,
J. M. HARE, } Secretaries.

Offices and Book Depot, 12, Warwick-square,
Paternoster-row, London; Feb. 11, 1847.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

WINTER COURSE OF LECTURES.

THE SECOND LECTURE will be delivered at TOTTENHAM-COURT-ROAD CHAPEL, on THURSDAY Evening, February 25th, by the Rev. F. A. COX, D.D., LL.D. Subject: "The Antagonism of Establishments of Religion to Scriptural Christianity."

Chair to be taken at Seven o'Clock.
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SIX SACRED SONGS; a Duet and Trio; written by Mrs. HEMANS; the Music composed by E. I. NIELSEN:—viz., 1. He walked with God. 2. The Rod of Aaron. 3. The Voice of God (Duet). 4. The Fountain of Marah. 5. Passing away. 6. The Angel's Greeting. And Trio. The Gloomiest Day hath Gleams of Light. Price 1s. 6d. each; or the whole in 1 Vol., in cloth, price 7s. 6d.

SIX NEW VOCAL DUETS, for two Sopranos:—viz., 1. The Smile. 2. The Feast of the Flowers. 3. No longer mourn for me. 4. Good Night. 5. Shall I compare Thee to a Summer's Day? 6. I come! I come! The poetry by SHAKESPEARE, DR. GRAY, Mrs. HEMANS, &c. The music composed by E. I. LODER. Price 2s., each; or the six in 1 Vol., bound in cloth, 9s.

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Luke James Hansard, Esq.

HON. SECRETARIES.

Rev. G. H. Stoddart, A.M.
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Rev. Robert Redpath.

(With power to add to its number.)

APPEAL OF UNITED RELIEF ASSOCIATION TO THE BRITISH PUBLIC.

MEN AND BRETHREN.—We feel it may be serviceable to address a plain statement to you of the extent of the present distress affecting the population of Ireland, parts of Scotland, and partially affecting also our poorer brethren in England.

The usual food of five millions of the poorer classes having been cut off by the failure of the potato crop—especially along the west and south-west coasts, as also in the mountainous and poorer districts, of Ireland; and in the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland has left a vast population, with nothing to mitigate their destitution—no effectual relief by a poor-law—and very few persons of wealth near them, daily and hourly expiring by starvation. Nothing can exceed the wretchedness of their case—whole families pining with hunger, unsheltered from the severity of the weather, or crowded together so as to generate a pestilential fever, are by hundreds—nay, by thousands—rapidly sinking into the grave. Even this last refuge is denied to some—they have none to bury them—their friends and relatives are sinking under the same awful visitation, and strangers are fearful of approaching the infected haunts of famine and pestilence. We forbear to enlarge upon the most distressing details of this calamity. The public papers, day after day, recount the most pitiable sufferings; and we deem that a national visitation of this extent calls for your liveliest sympathy, and most liberal exertions.

We have only to add, that you will be interposing to ward off increasing sufferings from our own poor by transmitting relief to Ireland. Already thousands of the Irish have hurried across to England, and it is to be feared they will greatly increase the destitution of our labouring classes by necessarily absorbing the funds for their supply. They may import a more fearful evil with them; for the famine fever, if brought over with them, is a pestilence which, once beginning to spread, spares neither rich nor poor.

The destitution of our own poor is approaching a frightful crisis: the miserable wages they many of them receive—only a few shillings per week; the dearth of provisions; the crowded state of the metropolitan Union Workhouses—the wretchedness of the agricultural and the manufacturing population are too well known, too fully admitted. We only forbear to dwell upon them now because Ireland and Scotland are still deeper in affliction; but while we would arouse the sympathy of the nation for the distant portions of the empire, we would not be altogether forgetful of our destitution at home.

The proceedings of the public meeting held at Exeter Hall on the 4th instant, which consisted of at least a thousand persons, and represented in combined operation all sections of the Christian community, will, we trust, have their due weight with the country. We briefly but most urgently commend the matter to your deliberation and your active exertions. Whether you may prefer to forward your collections to the distressed through the United Relief Association, or any other channel, let them be made without delay, and, if needful, continued from time to time. It would be insulting to your profession as Christians, to your patriotism as Britons, to your feelings as bearing the human form and sympathies, to suppose that further argument on the subject could be necessary. We simply request you to evince the Christian love our religion dictates, so shall the blessing of those ready to perish rest upon you, and ye will act as children of your gracious and most merciful Father.

Signed on behalf of the United Relief Association,
GEORGE H. STODDART, M.A., } Hon. Secretaries.
JAMES CARLILE, D.D., }

40, Leicester-square.

The United Relief Association is altogether unsectarian in its constitution, and the principles of its distribution. It is composed of Clergymen, Dissenting Ministers, and laymen, unrestricted to any denomination. They do not limit their efforts to any locality; but, while they admit the sadly pre-eminent claim of Ireland for relief, and also of parts of Scotland, they will devote a portion of their funds to mitigate destitution in England.

The following Contributions have been received:—

Luke James Hansard, Esq.....	£157	10	0
C. Cochran, Esq.....	63	0	0
Rev. A. Mangin.....	10	10	0
Messrs. Ibbotson.....	10	10	0
Samuel Gurney, Esq.....	50	0	0
Sir E. N. Buxton.....	20	0	0
—Adey, Esq.....	2	0	0
Rev. W. Marsh.....	2	16	0
Rev. E. T. Yates & R. Parmiter, Esq., Treasurers of the Aylesham Committee.....	99	10	6
The Pupils of Mr. J. G. Gowing, Finchley..	1	10	0
A Friend.....	1	0	0
A Friend.....	0	5	0
J. H.....	1	0	0
Collected in Small Sums, &c.....	24	4	3½

Contributions received by L. J. Hansard, Esq., 1, Old Palace-yard, Westminster; or the Secretaries, at 40, Leicester-square.

Several Ministers have announced their purpose of having Collections in connexion with the Association. Amongst others—

The Rev. W. Marsh, Independent.
The Rev. Josiah Redford.
The Rev. H. Pawling, Lenthall, Kent, Independent.
The Rev. H. F. Burder, Independent.
The Rev. R. Eckett.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"The work before us consists of a series of articles which originally appeared in that journal [the *Nonconformist*]; and we deem it no exaggeration to say that no other existing journal has furnished a series of papers containing so much lofty principle, sustained thought, and effective writing. It is one of the books that make the reader wish he were the author. Brief as the papers necessarily are, they seldom fail to go to the very root of the matter. Common topics are treated in an uncommon way. The old argument is frequently made to possess new virtue. The objection is often, by a deeper philosophy, proved to involve a positive praise, and the whole is full of life."—*Eclectic Review*.

"This volume is to be considered as a sequel to the 'Nonconformist's Sketch Book,' from the same pen, and originated in the same way. The object of the 'Sketch Book' was, to trace, prove, and exhibit the evils, political, social, and religious, resulting from the connexion between Church and State, and thence to derive an argument for their separation. The design of the volume before us is, to demonstrate the entire sufficiency of the 'Voluntary Principle' for the support and extension of the religion of the New Testament—a point on which many upright men require to be satisfied before they can be induced to forego the support of Government. Let this point be clearly made out, and they will at once withdraw all further opposition. Now, Mr. Miall, in his attempts at this, has accomplished much. The volume throughout is pervaded by clear statement and cogent argument, clothed in language well fitted to commend truth to men of cultivated minds. The volume, as a whole, has our very earnest recommendation as highly adapted to advance the cause of truth."—*Christian Witness*.

"Forty-four papers—real gems—which originally appeared in the columns of the *Nonconformist*, are here presented to the public in the form of a neat and compact little book, well printed and bound. We venture to predict for this edition a rapid sale."—*Baptist Reporter*.

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